THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 23 October 1997

45p No 3,435

America reveals her policy on global warming: too little, too late

President Bill Clinton finally revealed what the US was willing to do to combat man-made climate change - and it's not much. Europe, which wants to go further and faster, was deeply disappointed. Imre Karacs in Bonn, Mary Delevsky in Washington and Nicholas Schoon report.

The United States is prepared to curb its fast-rising emissions of climate-shifting pollution. bringing them back down to their 1990 level by about 2010, President Clinton said in a long awaited speech last night.

But that was far too little, too late, for Britain and the European Union. The feeling was that the world's only superpower, and its biggest global polluter, should be doing much more to slow the rises in temperatures and sea levels which threaten ruin, displacement and death for hundreds of millions of people in the next century.

"That is simply not good enough and it's not going to solve the problems of climate change," Peter Jorgensen, the European Commission spokesman, said last night.

At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the US and all developed nations undertook to stabilise their "greenhouse gas" emissions at the 1990 level by 2000.

Very few have kept that promise, and the US position amounts to putting it back by a further decade.

Far from stabilising at the 1990 level by 2000, US emissions have in fact risen by 8 per cent, including 3.4 per cent in 1996 alone. With only one-twentieth of the Earth's population, America produces almost onefifth of the world's pollution.

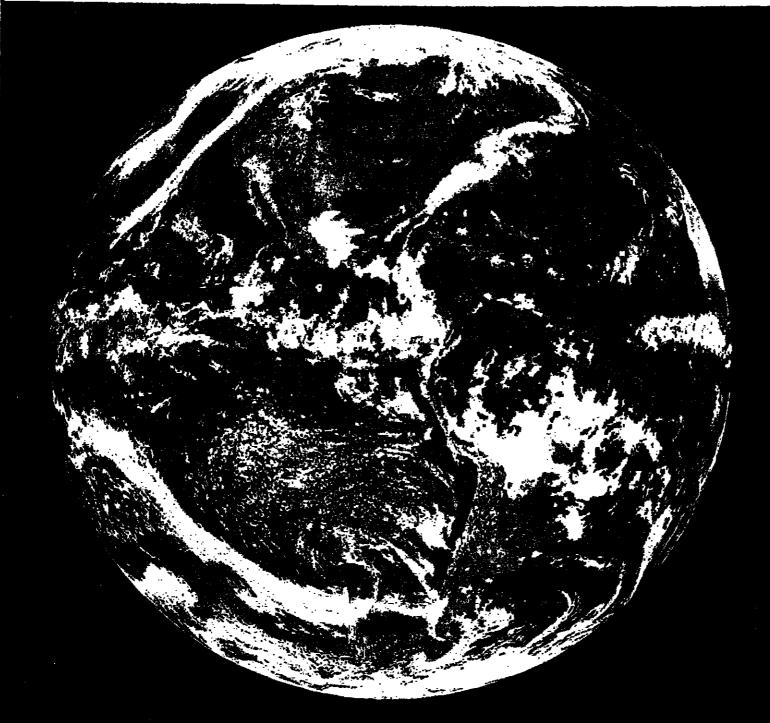
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Nations climate summit in Kyoto, Japan, in December. proposing that developed countries should together return their emissions to 1990 levels by between 2008 and 2012. President Clinton set out his proposals vesterday in a spet, a to the National Geographic Soriety, after months of wrangling within his administration.

He has also faced ferocious lobbying by major US industries



Dirty business: Europe feels the US, the only superpower, and biggest polluter, should do more to clean up its act Photograph: Science Photo Library

The US will go to a United from oil giants to car manufacturers which rely heavily on coal, oil and gas, the burning of which produces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and strong oppisation in the US Senate. In an attempt to placate critics, he outlined a £3bn package of incentives - mostly in the form of tax breaks - to encourage industry to save power or to switch to less polluting

forms of energy. The President made his an-

vance of the last set of preparatory negotiations before the Kyoto climate conference. Those talks started in Bonn this week. He telephoned several prime ministers and presidents earlier this week, including

The Clinton proposal leaves the US and the European Union, the two biggest players

nouncement just in time to in the climate talks, poles apart to meet the earlier commitment keep his promise to make the and with little time to stitch a American position known in ad- compromise. The EU is calling for emission cuts of 15 per cent for developed countries by 2010. Japan is in the middle, advocating a 5 per cent cut.

None of these reductions would actually stop the climate changing. The immediate issue is what rate of change can be tolerated without severe threats to

lives and economies. The EU is roughly on target to stabilise emissions by 2000.

While most member states have actually seen emissions. rise, big cuts in Germany and Britain - more the result of accident than design - have off-

Britain shut down the bulk of its coal industry; coal produces far more carbon dioxide than the natural gas which replaces it, Germany closed much of the highly inefficient, fossil-

fuel-intensive industry in the

At one end of the spectrum, the Alliance of Small Island States, some of whose members will be largely submerged by rising sea levels in the next century, is pushing for a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2005. At the other end, Australia - whose industries are particularly reliant on fossil fucls - refuses to con-

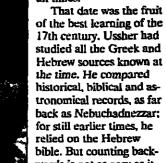
template any curbs.

On its birthday too! (The world is 6,000 today)

The dome is still a building site, the lottery budget is unspent and the millennium bug is still pupating in our PCs, but the new millennium is upon us. The world is precisely 6,000 years old today. "In the beginning God created the Heavens and Earth, which beginning of time was in that night preceding the XXIII day of October ... in the year 4004 before the first of our Era, commonly called Christian."

Those authoritative words were written by James Ussher (pictured below), Anglican Archbishop of Armagh, in his Annals of the Old Testament published in 1650. To this day, no one has given a more precise date for the beginning of the world, which may explain why Ussher's date of 4004 BC was printed in every King James Bible until Victori-

an times.



wards is not as easy as it looks. Egyptians, Babylonians, Jews, and Romans all used years of different length, starting at different seasons. The Latin way of counting confused things further. Not only was there no year AD zero, but when Julius Caesar introduced his calendar in the Roman Empire the officials thought a leap year "every fourth year" meant every three years.

Ussher relied on the numbering system of the Frenchman Joseph Scaliger to sort out "these pertinacious difficulties". Unfortunately, France was already using the Gregorian calendar, while Britain deferred entry into the single European calendar and kept to the old Julian system. Despite this, once the year 4004 is known, the precise date of 23 October follows at once. God, of course, kept to the Jewish festival calendar (He had commanded it, after all) and the first day of the Feast of Weeks, calculated from the Equinox and the Moon in 4004 BC, was on Sunday 23 October.

James Ussber was a devoted millenarian. His calculations showed that Solomon completed his Temple 3000 years after the Creation; and he thought that Jesus was born in 4 BC. The 5000-year mark was when the Antichrist began his rule, corrupting the Popes. Sadly. Ussher made no predictions for what should happen today, at the start of the seventh millennium. Cosmology has taken over from Bible study for purposes of dating the world.

So, give or take a couple of solar quirks, let's Ussher in the millennium. Happy Birthday World - You're 6,000 today.

INSIDEŢODAY

23/OPINION

Polly Toynbee makes the case against Islam. Rupert Cornwell says fat is a serious issue.

And John Walsh revels in the literary life at Cheltenham's festival.

EDUCATION+ Is the vice-chancellors' club breaking up?



WEATHER The Eye: page 10 TELEVISION The Eye, page Q. CROSSWORDS Page 32 and

TODAY'S OTHER NEWS

Cosmetic animal tests opposed by Blakemore

Colin Blakemore, the scientist viewed by many anti- vivisectionists as "enemy number one", believes most experiments on animals to test cosmetics should be

banned, Professor Blakemore has told The Independent that killing animals to test new beauty products is indefensible. He called for an immediate end to animal experiments that are used to check the safety of finished cosmetic products.

The head of physiology at Oxford University and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science has been an outspoken supporter of animal research. But he said yesterday: "Britain has lead the world in this moral issue. I think the banning of finished cosmetic products would be a step in the right direction." He added: "I find it difficult to see how the benefit of beautification outweighs the cost of killing animals and potential animal suffering." His comments follow the disclosure in The Independent on Tuesday that the Government has broken its pre-election pledge to end the use of animals to test cosmetics, and that the research budget for non-animal alternatives has been cut.

Professor Blakemore revealed in 1972 he had sewn up kittens' eyes as part of a research project, his view that most cosmetic tests are unnecessary will increase pressure to change the law. He said he still supported the use of animals to test products such as sun-screen if they had the potential to save life. About 2,800 animals a year die in cosmetic tests compared to about 2.7 million in medical research. Interview, page 3

Church schools retreat

The Government looks set to back off plans to change the status of Church schools because bishops may frustrate legislation in the House of Lords. Page 10

Post won't be privatised

The Post Office will remain fully in public ownership in spite of recent speculation that the Government was planning to sell off 49 per cent of the corporation, raising up to £2.5bn. Page 4

Violence in the home

Four out of five children fear their parents' rows leading to physical violence, according to a study whose publication co-incided with a Government statement that domestic violence is "vastly under-estimated". Page 5

SEEN & HEARD

The meat-free camera sounds about as necessary as the fat-free television or protein-enriched bus, doesn't it? But the Vegetarian Society yesterday gave its approval to a Japanese digital camera certified free of animal ingredients "in any of its component parts". Traditional film contains gelatine, derived from animal bones and skin. Digital cameras don't use film - images are captured on a computer chip. So the £300 Ricoh RDC-300 really is vegetarian-friendly - like any digital camera, actually.

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2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Scientists say rats to the evolution of love

You may have thought that evolution had it all pegged out, but then along comes another slew of research that puts the sexual world right out of

In theory, men produce millions of sperm which can fertilise lots of eggs, so they will naturally try to be unfaithful swine, seeking to father children everywhere; whereas women produce just one egg a month and so will seek a faithful partner who will support their mutual child. The antagonism between the two objectives means men want out of marriage, right?

Wrong, according to a survey of the nation's marriages published yesterday. About half of the respondents felt that having children was an important factor for a successful marriage - but 60 per cent of men thought that children were an asset, compared to just 50 per cent of women. Evolutionary biologists will shake their heads, and query whether the men thought the children were the sort of asset you could trade on the stock market - for a flash car, perhaps.

It gets worse. It turns out that it is women who want to be out of these marriages, not men. BBC Family Life magazine asked 282 couples if, given the chance to relive their lives and that nervous moment at the altar again, they would marry the same partner. Of the men questioned, 71



per cent said "yes"; as against only 56 per cent of the women. Overall, 10 per cent said they definitely wouldn't do the same again. Given that divorces are running at about four times that level, there must be some polished liars out there - a possibility that opinion polls should allow for.

However, laboratory rats don't lie. They stirred up what seemed like a tidy world yesterday, when the science journal Nature published a report showing that sex alters the physical makeup of your brain. At least, that is, if you're a male rat.

At the University of California, Marc Breedlove gave male rats female cage-mates, some of which were receptive to the males because they were given the hormone oestrogen, and others which were unreceptive because of a lack of oestrogen. After a month, Dr Breedlove (who, arguably, has a little too much time on his hands) looked at the male rat brains. In rats that had been placed with sexually receptive females, the cells in a hormone-sensitive part of the brain were actually smaller than in rats that had no sexual experience. "It is possible that differences in sexual behaviour cause, rather than are caused by, differences in brain structure," Dr Breedlove commented.

And what does that tell us of the war between the sexes? Well, referring back to the BBC survey, which found that a good love life came only third in the "most important" list of things (at 72 per cent, after "compromise" and "good sense of humour") it is obvious what is going on. British men just don't want their brains messed about with. And if that means upsetting everything that evolution tells us, so be it.

— Charles Arthur and Amanda Kelly

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AND YOUR COMPLEXION SEEMS TO BE CHANGING TOO.

PEOPLE



Media mother joins battle with Saatchi's giant.

Christine Walker, a woman unknown to most of the public but who is acknowledged as the most pow-erful woman in British advertising, is to fight a court battle with her former employers so she can set up her own company after having a baby.

Ms Walker, 44, was chief executive of Zenith Media, the part of the Saatchi and Saatchi empire now called Cordiant, which bought and placed advertising worth in excess of £500m, more than double that of its nearest rivals. The size of her buying power put her on first-name terms with the media's main power brokers, including Rupert Murdoch, Michael Green of Carlton Television and David Montgomery

of Mirror Group.

She left Zenith in January to have a baby, after nearly 10 years with the company, and was prevented by her £399,000-a-year contract from working in the industry until this Saturday. Zenith is taking her to court because of rumours that she is to set up a jointventure media-buying company with Lord Saatchi.

Lord Saatchi, formerly Maurice Saatchi, who was ennobled by John Major, left the agency he founded after a boardroom battle three years ago. Zenith wants to enforce clauses in Ms Walker's contract which prevent her from poaching Zenith staff or

clients for a further 12 months. An injunction has been granted for 14 days enforcing the non-approach clauses despite Ms Walker arguing that Zenith breached the contract in August and it is no longer enforceable. The agency is likely to have a battle on its hands. Ms Walker was considered a formidable negotiator by the TV stations and newspapers who negotiated multi-million pound advertising contracts with her. She was immortalised as the stereotypical hard-driven businesswoman who lives for her work in the 1994 book The Executive Tart and Other Myths.

Saatchi and Saatchi has made previous legal attempts to prevent its top executives, including Jeremy Sinclair, the man who created the "Labour isn't working" campaign for the Conservative Party in 1979, from joining its founding partners.

Lord Saatchi set up a new agency in 1995, M&C Saatchi, with his brother Charles. Now both Saatchi agencies are bitter rivals. The conflict stems from the ability of key executives to form strong relationships with advertisers who will move millions of pounds worth of business to wherever the executive works. Companies like British Airways moved their accounts with the brothers when they left Saatchi and Saatchi. --- Paul McCann

all behind me for the time being

because it was a different world.

to earth very quickly. I know how

important it is for me to pass these

English, French and Theatre Stud-

ies, has not ruled out a career in

front of the camera and still does

the odd bit of work for London-

based agency Models 1.

But Olivia, who is studying

Olivia Inge would have brought a smile of approval to the face of her great great grandfather, the Victorian prime minister William Gladstone, when she spurned a job on the catwalk in favour of her The 17-year-old schoolgirl

Gladstone's girl

From catwalk

to classes for

(right) turned down a £10,000-a-day offer from top French model agency Metropolitan so that she could finish her exams. Yesterday, after a two-week

stint in Paris working for fashion houses Yves St Laurent and Comme des Garçons alongside top models, including Naomi Campbell. Olivia was back in the classrooms of the Wells Cathedral School in Somerset.

"Paris was absolutely fautastic but now I want to concentrate on getting my A-levels," she said. "It is going to be difficult putting it

Mark strips off last shred of modesty Mark Wahlberg has made a footnote in movie history, although

foot is perhaps not the most appropriate word. The actor and former model, known as Marky Mark, will become the first to have a fullfrontal shot in a Hollywood

movie, Boogie Nights, which will

receive its UK premiere in London in the new year. In America, the film had a rating which means under-17s must be accompanied by adults. A satire on the porn industry, it fol-But I hope to be able to come back lows British comedy success The Full Monty which climaxed with

> rear views of its protagonists. Male nudity is rare in films, and, until now, unknown in Hollywood; The Crying Game had as its pivotal moment a shot of male genitalia. Erections are, however, not allowed in mainstream movies on either side of the Atlantic.

— David Liste

UPDATE

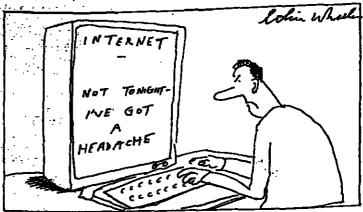
INTERNET

Lots of sex please, we're surfers

It's official. The vast majority of "net surfers" are after one thing, and one thing only. Sex. Every two seconds, in fact.

Or so says a survey conducted by a new consumer guide to the Internet which analysed the top 200 search words entered by users over one month to find out the most commonly requested topics. The result? The A Internet was swamped by 1,553,420 requests for "sex" and 414,320 applications for "chat" (not as innocuous a request as it may first appear). "XXX" was at number three in the chart, with 397, 640 requests, followed by "Playboy" with 390,920. Other top-ten contenders included "nude" and "porno", both with more than a quarter of a million fans. Many users displayed considerable ingenuity in their search for sexual enlightenment, with guest appearances by "Persian kitty", "hardcore" and "cyberporn".

But this trend is unlikely to last, claims Mike Cowley of The Web. Take my word for it," he said, "shopping will be far more popular than sex on the Internet by the year 2000."



MEDICINE

Chillies burn a way to pain relief

It could mean new treatments for chronic pain; or it might just offer a treatment for people who find chilli-ridden Mexican food too hot to handle. Scientists in America have discovered the chemical messenger in the body which signals painful heat, including that caused by chilli peppers.

David Julius and Michael Caterina, of the University of California in San Francisco, worked with capsaicin, the pungent ingredient in chilli peppers, and found that a chemical called vanilloid receptor subtype 1 (VR1) is activated when it binds to capsaicin. The work, published today in the science journal Nature, reveals that painful temperatures work in a similar way and cause the same sensation of burning heat that chillis bring on in the mouth. The result could help us to understand what causes pain sensations, and in time to understand how we become tolerant to them.

CLOTHES

Woolly jumpers to lose their itch

Scientists have found an answer to itchy woollen jumpers - a fibre that can make scratchy material "feel like cashmere", it was revealed today. Kurabo Industries, a Japanese clothing manufacturer, has developed a way of stretching and thinning individual fibres to take out the tickle.

The fibres are treated chemically to expose more of their inner parts, which do not irritate the skin. New Scientist magazine reported: "The resulting wool is not only less itchy, but also lighter. It feels like cashmere." Kurabo will use the new material, Corrielana, to make extra-light clothes.

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ZITS

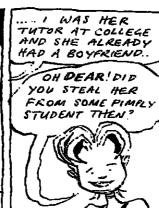
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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman













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The ultimate accessory: Pupils with their mobile phones. Some schools have taken to banning the phones from classrooms Photograph: Rui Xavier

The mobile phone: a must for clued-up Nineties pupils

Once the quiet of the classroom was likely to be interrupted only by scraping chairs, or sniggering from the back. These days it is more likely to be the ring of a mobile phone. Jojo Moyes takes up the call.

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Heralded by the Hollywood movie Clueless, mobile phones and pagers are fast becoming as essential a part of school bag- such as Millfield in Somerset gage as gym kit. At the end of the school day, any school gate features at least one uniformed teenager, schoolbag slung over

recent Gallup poll commissioned by Motorola found that young people use pagers as a means of "socialising and flirting". They are also a fashion statement.

The news that mobile telephones have been banned from another school will come as no surprise to teachers frustrated of communications devices.

The ban at George Watson's College in Edinburgh, follows similar bans at schools and Holly Hall in Dudley, West Midlands, and was introduced after a pupil's phone rang during lessons. Now errant pupils one shoulder and phone will have their mobile phones - through no fault of the teach- ever so keen on phones that

the day, and then be told not to interest in where they're going take them back into classes.

the school's board of governors,

said that it was thought better

to take action before the ring- friend might be talking to someing of mobile phones became a "real problem". According to Sue Berryman, a mother-of-four from by the constant bleep and ring north London who works in the existent running costs, although education sector, phone use is

a great deal of interest in lessons

now the norm in her children's Many children, considering schools, with pupils using them largely to call their friends before and after class. What they seem to be doing is no different to what kids have done for ever: not taking

pressed to an ear. Similarly, a confiscated until the end of ens- and displaying much more have free weekend calls. But if they call them from home the at lunchtime, and who with. cost is astronomic. It's a whole Andrew Cubic, chairman of Also, in a mixed comprehensive extra disciplinary area." in particular there's the constant That said, many parents feel

anxiety that the hoyfriend or girlit is worth paying for the phones just to ensure that their offspring have a way of keeping in touch. Mr Cubie observed: "The culture of life is different to pagers - an option popular

when you or I were at school. Parents now give these phones less so among the teenagers. to children for safety to go to and come from school."

But the growth in the classroom communications market is not one that most other moto put a ban on the calls after bile phone providers seem particularly comfortable discussing. Mercury One-to-One said that itemised phone hill. They're

Nanny's mother tells trial of happy daughter

The big-gun medical experts keep on testifying in the Louise Woodward trial and the prosecution's case against her is looking ever more frayed. Yesterday, though, the court heard from one of the more important character witnesses in the case, Susan Woodward, the defendant's mother. David Lisborne was there.

Pressed by the prosecution to describe Matthew Eappen, the small boy whom her own daughter, Louise Woodward, is alleged to have brutally murdered on 4 February, Susan Woodward found herself fighting back tears yesterday. In a broken voice, she replied simply. "He was a beautiful child".

Drought by the defence as a character witness, Mrs Woodward recounted for the jury a visit she payed to the Eappen family between Boxing Day and New Year's Day last year.

She confirmed that during that week, she also had cared for the then 8-month-old Matthew, taken him for strolls and "rocked

him to sleep". Otherwise, it was mostly maternal emotion on display on the stand, as Mrs Woodward beamed encouraging smiles across the courtroom at her daughter, who stands accused of violently shaking Matthew and slamming his head against a hard surface in a manner sufficient to have caused his death on 9 February.

Louise, who has maintained a mostly blank, if attentive, demeanour throughout her trial, returned her own tentative smiles towards the stand.

Mrs Woodward, who, as a witness, has been barred from seeing her daughter for straight choice between guilty as charged the duration of the trial, also painted a picture of Louise enjoying her experience with the Eappens which began after she transferred from another family in the area on 18 November last year.

When she arrived for her visit on 26 December she found Louise was "doing very well, she was very happy", Mrs Woodward

Meanwhile, yet another renowned medical expert came to the stand yesterday to straight, noose or loose, choice.

back up the defence's contention that Matthew in fact had suffered an earlier brain injury that had created a blood clot on the brain that began catastrophically to re-bleed on or just before 4 February.

Dr Ayub Ommaya, a specialist in neurosurgery and bio-mechanics, testified that the re-bleeding caused a sudden and exponentially accelerating build-up of pressure inside Matthew's head. That pressure, he said, eventually bore down on his brain stem, which is at the base of the brain, and disabled it. The stem, he said, is "like the plug of your TV. If you pull it out, everything stops".

Dr Ommaya also testified on the substance of two papers authored by himself on the phenomenon "talk, deteriorate and die", which describes how patients who suffer blows to the head and for a period of minutes, hours, even weeks, show no symptoms of distress. They collapse and usually die later when clots, or hematomas, created by the initial incident, begin to re-

Importantly, Dr Ommaya agreed with the defence lawyer Barry Scheck that symptoms displayed by Matthew in the hours before his collapse - unusual lethargy, loss of appetite and constipation matched those of talk-deteriorate-anddie patients. "Those were precisely the symptoms we would expect".

With the case expected to be given to the jury next Tuesday, the defence will need to decide shortly whether the jurors should be asked to consider a range of convictions, ranging from first-degree murder down to involuntary manslaughter or whether to take a gamble known among lawyers in Massachusetts as the "noose or loose"

Under this scenario, the defence would ask that the jurors be given only the on first-degree murder or innocence and therefore acquittal.

Much may still hang on the appearance on the stand that is still scheduled of the defendant herself, which could come today or on Monday. (There will be no session tomorrow.)

But such has been the mood of confidence on the defence bench in recent days. the temptation will be strong for the

Animal rights groups' hate figure changes tack on testing cosmetics

One of the leading exponents of animal experiments has changed his mind on the question of cosmetic testing. The shift, writes Jason Bennetto, will add pressure on the Government to introduce a ban.

For the past 10 years Professor Colin Blakemore has been a hate figure among animal rights

groups.

The Oxford University scientist has had windows smashed and his three children threatened with kidnapping; in 1993 a bomb packed with needles was sent to his home; and in August paint stripper was poured over his car. At one stage he had 400 campaigners demonstrating outside his house.

Now one of Britain's most vocal supporters of vivisection is in danger of becoming a champion of animal rights.

He told The Independent esterday that he supports a ban on most testing of cosmetics on animals. He wants companies to immediately end animal testing on all beauty products.

Professor Blakemore, 53, be-



Blakemore: 'Insufficient Justification for cosmetics tests'

came animal activists' main target in 1972 when he revealed he had sewn up kittens' eyes under anaesthetic. The research helped medical understanding of amblyopia, the commonest form of child blindness.

Professor Blakemore said yesterday: "The public and the more lookalike products that

Government have to decide whether there's merit in developing new products - whether having a new anti-dandruff shampoo is such a benefit that it outweighs the death of some

"There should not just be

don't significantly improve existing products.

one else," she said.

A lot of the children also had

with parents due to low, or non-

phone usage "a priority", do

part-time work to pay for them.

But Mrs Berryman was forced

receiving a bill for £200. "I've

had to get a grip on it. I got an

"For beauty aids, such as blushers, lipstick and mascara. I find it difficult to see how sufficient benefit can be made to justify the death of animals."

"Cosmetic manufacturers should be telling us why its necessary. No one is killing animals

Professor Blakemore will appear on Channel 5's What's the Story? on Sunday at 7pm to discuss why he supports an end to testing of beauty products. He believes products such as

sun screen, which could save life, should be re-classified as medicines so that animal test-About 2,800 animals die

each year on cosmetic tests compared to 2.7 million for medical research.

Calls for a ban of cosmetic testing are also supported by Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, who has written to Tony Blair to express her anger at the government U-turn.

 The number of laboratory animals killed each year could be up to 400,000 more than the official figure because they ignore animals used in test tube experiments, according to Animal Aid, the British anti-vivisection group, in a report in New Scientist magazine.



IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT



THE EYE

After 'Shallow Grave' and 'Trainspotting', Messrs Boyle, MacDonald and Hodge have decided to go west. Well, it's 'A Life Less Ordinary', says Adam Mars-Jones

PLUS interviews with Julia Ormond, Gavin Rossdale (the pretty boy from Bush) and Bernard D'Ascoli (the blind pianist from Paris)

Post Office to remain in public hands

The Government has decided that the Post Office must remain fully in state ownership. Barrie Gement, Labour Editor, also reveals that restrictions on its ability to borrow are likely to

remain

Senior managers inside the Post Office had been speculating that 49 per cent of it might be sold to the private sector, but Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has decided that it should remain the property of the state, according sory "dividend" to the state, and to civil service sources.

It is also understood that the Treasury has opposed any plan to place the Post Office outside the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. That means the corporation will be unable to raise - a long-cherished ambition.

It will also mean that the Post Office will still be banned from undertaking joint ventures with private sector businesses. As long as it comes within the PSBR, any venture involving the Post Office will automatically be underwritten by the Government and therefore potentially in breach of European competition law.

The Government's decision will be relayed next week to John Roberts and Mike Heron, chief executive and chairman respectively of the Post Office, by Ian McCartney, trade and industry minister. The decision means that the Exchequer and the Stock Exchange will miss out on the ilotation of shares worth between £1bn and £2.5bn.

ownership of the Post Office, but alternative."

they were adamant that the organisation should be taken out of PSBR constraints in order to allow commercial freedom.

Mr Roberts said last week that as long as the Post Office remained within state spending and borrowing limits, any changes would be "cosmetic and around the edges". To sweeten the pill, ministers may suggest that new capital ventures, maybe launched under the existing Public Finance initiative system.

Senior Post Office managers are anxious that the organisation is no longer seen as a "cash cow" by ministers. Last year, it contributed £500m to the Exchequer through a compulfrom taxes.

Management was particularly keen to compete with the privatised Dutch mail service which recently acquired the TNT group. The Post Office was also seeking business opportufunds in private capital markets nities overseas, but its ambitions will now be circumscribed

Senior managers have long argued that the external financial limits were sensible for guiding the operations of goverument departments, but not for providing incentives to commercial bodies within the public sector.

Tony Blair told the Commons in November 1994 that the Tory government's legislative programme should have included a Bill about the Post Office, "not to privatise it, but to liberate it within the private

"Such a Bill would pass with

virtually manimous support," he said. "Why is it not in the Queen's speech? The reason is that, although the Government do not have the courage to pri-Both Mr Heron and Mr vatise the Post Office, their Roberts have publicly declared dogma prevents them from themselves agnostic about the adopting the only sensible



Tony Blair enjoys the buzz in the pit with traders at the London International Financial Februres and Options Exchange, in the City of London yesterday

MEPs barred from group meetings after spurning code of conduct

Four Labour Members of the European Parliament were yesterday barred from all further

meetings of their group . after refusing to accept a code of conduct.

Anthony Bevins reports on a unprecedented act of Euro-discipline.

Wayne David, leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party, reacted firmly to an act of outright rebellion from four colleagues, who defied an ultimatum to accept a gag about "any aspect of the party selection procedures" for candi-

Ken Coates, Hugh Kerr, Alex Falconer and Michael

the privileges of membership" of the party - they could no longer attend meetings of the 62-strong Labour group in the Parliament.

Conservative MEPs - who could yet have problems of their own with a party leadership that is more Eurosceptic than they are - dubbed the rebels the "Strasbourg Four" and used the crackdown as an illustration of Tony Blair's "control freak" personality.

Mr David said: "This is not something that we like doing, but we think it very important that Labour MEPs, like everyone else in the Labour Party, accepts collective decisions and procedures which have been agreed by the National Executive Committee."

He also said it was nonsense

Hindley were told by Mr David to claim - as the rebels have that they were "suspended from done - that the code of conduct women who are not indepenwas in breach of parliamentary

> The struggle appears very much a last-ditch fling by the rebels who, as old-guard Labour, might expect not to be favoured for the party list of candidates that is proposed under the proportional representation system to be introduced for the 1999 European parliamentary elections.

As diehards, they could expect short shrift from any centrafised selection procedures that might well be introduced by Mr Blair and his colleagues on the all-powerful national executive committee.

Mr Kerr, MEP for Essex West and Hertfordshire East, said: "They want to get rid of troublesome items like me.

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deal.

Blairites, young men and deut and difficult members like Ken Coates and me."

Earlier, announcing their intention to defy a timed ultimatum, Mr Coates and Mr Kerr told Simon Murphy, the party whip: "The question at issue is profoundly important because it goes to the root of

They said in a joint letter: Serious changes are being proposed in the British electoral system. It is not only our right but our duty to insist that these issues should be fully explained and discussed.

"Democracy depends on open communication with the electors through any available medium whether this takes place in meetings, in the columns of the press or on They want to replace us with radio or on television."

Ashdown accuses Labour of acting like the Tories

Labour was yesterday accused by Paddy Ashdown of behaving like Tories on health and school spending. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor. marks a difference between two political allies.

The Government could not have it both ways, the Liberal Democrat leader said yesterday. Either it stuck to Tory spending limits, or it made good its promises to improve services but it could not do both.

A Liberal Democrat analysis showed the pressures of inflation, with the inherited Conservative spending plans, slice £430m off the NHS budgets this year, with £790m being lost next year. Even after the extra £270m promised by the Chancellor for the NHS this winter, and £1.2bu next year, the NHS would be only marginally better off over the two years to March 1999.

But even that slight bonus could be wiped out by the costs of dealing with the difficulties faced by the NHS with the Year 2000 computer problem which has to be cleared up within the next two years.

A similar cash crisis is being forecast by the Liberal Democrat number-crupchers for the education system, and Mr Ashdown said Labour was proving to be the "natural partners with the Conservatives" over health and education spending. Opening his party's "Make the Difference" campaign to pressure the Government into increasing spending plans in spring's Budget, Mr Ashdown said he was delighted more money had al-

ready been committed. But he warned: "Despite extra cash and some savings. higher inflation means that real NHS spending is still going to

planned last year [because of inflation], while across all departments, a total of more than £5bn has been sliced off next year's budgets." MPs suspect Mr Ashdown is

trying to compensate for the

Mar signature in

closeness between the Gove ernment and the Liberal Democrats over constitutional change, for which a unique Cabinet committee has been created. With the Winchester and Beckenham by-elections pending, the Liberal Democrats will need to create some space between themselves and their Labour opponents if they are to. hold or gain ground against the Tories. Mr Ashdown told BBC



Ashdown: Inflation warning

Radio 4's Today programme -We fought the election of bringing in a rather more rath tional style of politics in this

country. "Where you agree with the Government you should work with them and deliver the things that are good for Britain, like modernisation of our constitut tion. We are natural partners with the Labour Party in the modernisation of Britain's constitution. But I fear it appear to me that in a sense Labour and natural partners with the Conservatives when it comes to funding health and education and proper public services. I think the public understands be £160m lower this year than that very well."

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What children really fear: their parents fighting

More than four out of five of our children are worried about domestic violence, a new report claims. The Government says it will impose a "zero tolerance" strategy on violence in the home. Glanda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, looks at) families living in the socalled "age of anxiety".

The level of domestic violence in Britain has been "vastly underestimated". Harriet Harman, the Minister for Women, said yesterday. She pledged concerted Government action to tackle the issue after a report found that a large percentage of children feared violence in home and school.

The research carried out for NCH Action for Children surveyed 1,000 parents and 250 children about family life. Their findings concluded that childbood today is not a carefree time, with 82 per cent of children worried about violence inmuding into their world.

Ms Horman told a seminar held by the charity that "violence by men against their wife

rious problems facing society to-

She continued: "Domestic violence is no respecter of class or background - it affects women of all walks of life, rich and poor, black and white. young and old, in all areas of the country."

Domestic violence was the single most common form against women, she said. In 1995, 43 per cent of all assaults against women were committed by their partners.

"The scale of the problem has been vastly underestimated, because only 25 per cent of domestic violence is reported.

"Seventy-nine per cent of the parents surveyed in this report agreed with the statement that a lot of violence that goes on within families is kept secret, so those families don't get the help they need." Ms Harman said she want-

ed the Government to help bring about a change in public attitude towards domestic violence, in the same way that a Government campaign in the 1980s brought about a radical change in public feeling about

There should be "zero tolerance" of the problem, she said, adding: "We have to say very clearly that no violence in the home is acceptable, just as (three in four were worried schools - "the latter probably more insecure, in part because ravelling of many of the safety



Family at war: Kathy Burke and Ray Winston who star in the film Nil By Mouth, directed by Gary Oldman, which depicts violence in the home

criminal offence.

The report found that children were also concerned about half and two thirds express fears drug and alcohol abuse, and a about lack of facilities for chillack of jobs for young people dren and poor standards in

were worried about poverty and homelessness, and between

tion for academic success and, ultimately, jobs lying ahead of them," the report says.

"Clearly life is becoming of insecurity, namely the unviolence outside the home is a about jobs). A similar number showing that most children are the rate of societal change is ac nets which people fall back on

only too aware of the competi- celerating, especially in terms of in times of trouble," it says. the world of work. But some-Cutbacks in the benefit system, a health service under thing else is happening along-

side this to compound the sense pressure and uncertainty about care in old age have all contributed to this sense of unease. With the most important support system for most now being the family, the increasing scale of family breakdown means the support system can be seen

as a "rather fragile bulwark". The charity calls for action. We might argue that it is sad if parents and children are worried, but that is simply a product of the turbulent times we live in. But there are strong reasons for rejecting this approach because concerns of these kinds undermine the confidence of both children and parents, and make it less likely that they will be able to take advantage of educational and other opportunities. They make underachievement a self-fulfilling

Tackling family violence should be a priority, including putting women's refuges on a more secure financial footing. establishing confidential services across the country for children and other family victims of abuse and incorporating domestic violence awareness training into training for doctors, social workers the police teachers and youth workers.

It also recommends that more emphasis should be put on combatting bullying at school, targeting young people most vulnerable to youth unemployment and building up support structures for families and com-

And it may be pregnant women who suffer most

Concern is growing that pregnancy is often the trigger for violent attacks on women by their husbands or partners. Ian Burrell explains that 1,000 pregnant women are to be questioned in the first publicly-funded investigation of the

"He just hit me too hard this once," murmured a pregnant

problem in Britain.

SOPERATIVE BAY

London ante-natal clinic. Although her jaw was broken in three places, she was not possessiveness are flattering. seeking medical attention, only a certificate to get time off had been beaten regularly by her boyfriend while carrying their child, but felt he had done were sometimes attacked by

Midwives have now been asked to help assess how many violent attacks on women by their partners are because the woman is pregnant. A report will be submitted to the Department of Health and new guidelines are likely to be drawn up for nurses and midwives to identify women at risk.

Research in America and Scandinavia has found that 17 per cent of women experience domestic violence in the first three months of their pregnancy, and blows are often targetted at the breasts or abdomen. Nicola Harwin, of the

en's Aid Federation, said: "Part of the romantic ideal in our society is that jealousy and But that's how the violent rework. Nurses later found she said. "Then, when the child is conceived, it is seen as a threat."

She said pregnant women

their partners because they were not sexually available.

The new British research will be headed by Dr Gill Mezey, a consultant in Forensic Psychiatry at St George's Hospital Medical School in London, and Dr Susan Bewley, director of obstetrics at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, south London.

Dr Bewley said there were concerns that new measures designed to encourage husbands and hoyfriends to be present at childbirth and during pregnancy care were making it more difficult for pregnant women to report domestic vio-

She said: "As a society we are encouraging greater involvement of men in childcare, but for some vulnerable women lationship often starts off," she this may not be a good thing."

Dr Bewley said there were unplanned pregnancies were most likely to trigger violence.

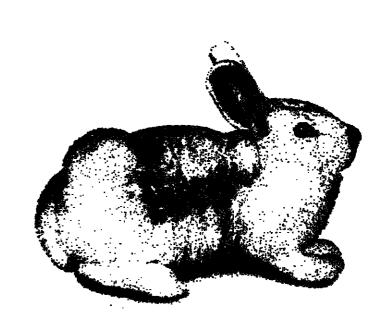
Beauty can be an ugly business. About 30,000 animals are still being killed in Europe each year in cosmetic testing.

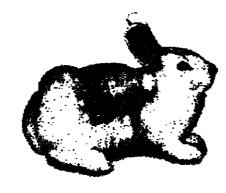
In allergy skin tests, the fur is shaved from the backs of guinea pigs and the test chemical is applied. Often, in such a concentrated form that it can burn right through the skin.

The tests drag on for at least 7 days before these poor, mutilated 'stimulus-response models' are put out of their misery.

Meanwhile, just to make sure a new shampoo, or shower gel doesn't sting, it is squirted into the eyes of animals. Rabbits are preferred because they cannot produce enough tears to wash away the irritants. Their large eyes also make it easier to observe the chemical ulceration of the eyeballs.

Why are these tests that started over 50 years ago allowed to continue, when up to 8,000 cosmetic ingredients are already known to be safe? Do we really need more?





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3M Health Care

Mother tells of tragedy in wake of baby's death

The mother of a baby girl who died during a hole-in-the-heart operation broke down in tears yesterday as she described how her partner took his life in the wake of the child's death, and she considered "joining them".

Helen Rickard was giving evidence against three doctors from the Bristol Royal Infirmary who are charged with serious professional misconduct following the deaths of 29 children over a number of years.

Ms Rickard said her partner Andy placed a bin-liner over his head and suffocated a few days before the second anniversary of baby Samantha's death.

She said: "Andy never got over Samantha's death. He kept having nightmares where he saw her calling him from the dark saying, 'Where are you? I can't find you'. They had a very strong bond between them. After Samantha's death, Andy became very introspective, spending time at Samantha's grave. Even though we had a second baby, Ben, he could never accept Samantha not be-

played driving home from the hospital after Samantha's death.

She added: "I very seriously thought about joining them but where would that leave Ben, who's four and a half now. You pick up the pieces and carry on. Ben says his sister and father are in heaven, but sometimes he asks when his daddy will pick him up from school. It's very distressing."

The couple took Samantha to the Bristol Royal Infirmary a few days before her first birthday. She died during an operation on 3 February, 1992.

Earlier she had told the General Medical Council hearing that a surgeon, Mr James Wisheart, had told her and her partner that Bristol was one of the best hospitals and that Samantha could live a normal healthy life.

Mr Wisheart, 59, who has since resigned; fellow-surgeon Mr Janardan Dhasmana, 58; and Dr John Roylance deny misconduct relating to 53 operations between 1988 and 1995 in which 29 babies died and four suffered serious brain damage.

Ms Rickard said her partner
had died listening to a Chris de
with the ethical issues and not Burgh recording that they had with criminal negligence.



Christine Hamilton and her husband, the disgraced former Tory MP Neil Hamilton, in London yesterday, where Mrs Hamilton was launching her book on celebrated female battleaxes Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Open University backs loans for part-time students

half a million part-time undereducation budget, a new study

The report, commissioned by the Open University from the consultants London Economics, suggests extending loans to lowincome part-time students to encourage more people to go to

Under the Government's proposals, full-time undergraduates will have to contribute towards tuition fees from next September. At the same time, grants will be phased out but students will have access to state subsidised loans to cover living costs.

The Open University, the Opening up the Government's The Open University, the new student loans scheme to largest provider of part-time unlargest provi dergraduate degrees in Britain, graduates would add no more is bailing its study findings as evthan L5 per cent to the higher idence of the feasibility of allowing part-timers access to loans for the first time.

The university, and others with high numbers of part-time students, hope to use the report to challenge the Government to reconsider its decision to confine loans to full-time undergraduates. The OU research, based on the assumption that loans would be available only to part-time students with an income of less than £10,000, suggests the public expenditure cost of extending the scheme would be no more than £147m.

even by 2016. Lifelong learning minister Kim Howells last night pledged to study the report closely as part of efforts to widen access to higher education.

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· Lecturers in many of the country's further education cot-? leges will not receive even a regiq ommended below-inflation pay, rise this year as colleges strug-gle to survive a funding crisis."

The university and college lecturers' union, NATFHE, yesterday warned of plummeting morale as its annual pay survey revealed one in eight colleges cannot afford salary increases. The low settlements mean lecturers' pay will slump further behind secondary schoolteachers' salaries.

__ Lucy Ward. Education Correspondent In the Eye: Education +

Trial told of IRA explosives cache

A cache of explosives and am- used by Murphy - his fingermunition - linked to an alleged IRA terrorist shot dead by police - was found two months ago, near Chelsea football ground, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

It was the second safe lockup unit discovered after the arrest of four members of an IRA active service unit plotting to bomb London last year, the prosecution alleged. The jury was told that the first was rented under a false name by James Murphy, one of four men accused of conspiring to cause explosions between 1 January and 24 September last year

and possessing explosives. Mr Murphy, 26, Patrick Kelly, 31, Brian McHugh, 31, and Michael Phillips, 22, deny

the charges. The jury was told that masked men had raided the storage firm at Shepherd's Bush, west London, six weeks after Mr Murphy's arrest. They were searching for the unit held under in the name of Murphy and removed its contents. "Nothing was missing from the other units. We say that unit was

prints were found on the door and certain items," said David Waters, for the prosecution. A box marked .762 rifle ammunition from Yugoslavia and traces of explosives were discovered

More ammunition - and high explosives - came to light at a storage firm in Chelsea in August this year, said Mr Waters. It had been rented to a John Wilson in 1993. Rent had been paid up until September 1996, but Mr Wilson did not appear after July 1996.

Over a year later, the padlock was cut and a sports bag was found, containing seven sealed packets of ammunition, loose bullets, four blocks of Semtex explosive and 12 timing units, said Mr Waters. He alleged the man known as John Wilson was in fact a suspected

IRA activist, Diarmuid O'Neill. Mr O'Neill - said to be at the heart of an IRA plot to launch a lorry bomb attack in London - was shot dead as police went to arrest him at a west London hotel in September last year.

The trial continues today.

20 years for killer who burnt woman's body

A man who murdered and set alight a university graduate after she fought off his sex attack," was jailed yesterday for a minimum of 20 years.

Duncan Bermingham, 32, of Longsight, Manchester, was found guilty of murdering Rachel Thacker, 21, after she got into his car thinking it was a taxi during a night out with

The jury at Manchester Crown Court took six hours and 38 minutes to find him guilty by a unanimous verdict.

Ms Thacker had been on a night out with friends in Manchester city centre on 10 August last year before Bermingham G picked her up in his car in the city's Canal Street.

Her naked and charred body was found the next day behind the George & Dragon pub in Ardwick, Manchester.

Ms Thacker, of Chase Terrace, Cannock, Staffordshire. had recently graduated from the University of Salford and was celebrating a friend's 21st birthday on the night of her murder.

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Section 18

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Three charged over baseball-bat attack

murder of a man who was attacked outside his disabled

Three people were charged two men, aged 38 and 18, and Holmes, 27, who suffered serimagistrates this morning.

West Midlands Police said tempting to murder Lee baseball bat.

yesterday with the attempted a 17-year-old youth were due to ous head injuries outside his appear before Wolverhampton father's home in Low Hill, Wolverhampton, when he wass The three are accused of at- beaten over the head with a -





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Legislation should be introduced to outlaw 'Islamophobia', the Runnymede Trust argued yesterday. But Clare Gamer says that the Government has no plans to change the law to protect Muslims from religious discrimination.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday rejected the key recommendation of the Commission on British Muslims.

The first major study into "Islamophobia" and the position of the British Muslim community concluded that a new legal term such as "religious and racial violence" is urgently needed in order to protect Muslims from physical violence and harassment.

Given that people are often attacked because of their dress or association with a place of worship, the term "racial violence" is no longer adequate, the Runnymede Trust said.

Speaking at the launch of the report "Islamophobia: A challenge for us all" at Westminster yesterday, Mr Straw, whose Blackburn constituency includes 20,000 Muslims, said: "I recognise that there is an important difference between religious and racial identity. I know that some people feel that race legislation is not the answer to the particular problems of the Muslim community. But religious legislation may not be

He admitted that the question of harassment of Muslims was a "difficult and sensitive" issue, but added that he had no plans to legislate. "Given the complexity of the matter and our pressures in our parlia-) mentary programme, we don't have immediate plans to legislate on this," he said.

the answer either."

The commission maintained that there were four areas in English law which were not yet developed sufficiently to meet the needs of British Muslims:

discrimination in employment and the provision of services, vilification and blasphemy, incitement to hatred, and violence.

Meanwhile, before new legislation reaches the statute book, the commission recommended that, when sentencing offenders for crimes of violence or harasyment, courts should formally treat evidence of religious hatred as an aggravating factor.

The Home Office should give a clear lead on the monitoring of racial and religious violence and police forces should note acts which have a specifically religious dimension.

According to the commission, there is widespread anecdotal evidence in Muslim communities that an individual Muslim is more likely to be a victim of racist violence when he or she is weating Islamic dress or symbols.

This applies to white Muslims - a white woman wearing the hijab, for example - as well as to South Asians. There is also a widespread perception that Muslims are particularly likely to be attacked when going to or from their local mosque, and that a peak time for racist attacks is the month of Ramadan.

Another recommendation made by the commission. whose committee was multiethnic and multi-religious, related to the educational system.

It suggested a review of English language teaching, the development of formal policies and guidance on meeting the pastoral, religious and cultural needs of Muslim pupils in mainstream schools, and the introduction of state funding in Muslim schools.

The commission was set up by the Runnymede Trust, an independent think-tank, in 1996. It set out to counter Islamophobic assumptions that Islam is a single, monolithic system, and draw attention to the particular dangers which Islamophobia creates or exacerbates for Muslim communities - and therefore the well-being of society as a whole.

How Pakistani voters help shape Cook's policy

The issue of Islamic empowerment in Britain has wide-ranging ramifications. Kim Sengupta examines how Labour's concern over Muslim votes will increasingly influence the political agenda both at home and abroad.

One could hardly have had a more potent example of the power of the Muslim vote: the Queen, the Foreign Secretary, and the Prime Minister of the most populous country in the Commonwealth as the cast of a huge diplomatic row.

The seeds of the problems which bedevilled the royal tour of India lay 5,000 miles away in the marginal constituencies of the United Kingdom.

To put in its simplest form, Robin Cook's reported offer to mediate in the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan would have pleased Pakistanis, and a large section of the British Muslim electorate. The Pakistanis want to internationalise the issue, the Indians want to keep it bilateral.

There may well, of course, be moral reasons why the Government wants to get involved in Kashmir. There is certainly a very practical reason for paying lip service to doing so.

Historically, Labour has claimed around 90 per cent of of the Asian vote. But it can no longer take that for granted,

and the proportion has declined over the last decade.

The Pakistani electorate is concentrated mostly in the Midlands and the North-west where there were a large cluster of marginal seats before the election. Mr Cook should know the psephological details of this well. Two years ago, as shadow foreign secretary, he made a speech in Brent, north London, implying support for the Indian position on Kashmir. He was warned that in at least 30 marginal seats, the Pakistani vote could tip the balance against Labour.

MPs in constituencies with large Muslim populations have championed causes like Kashmiri independence. However, this has not saved them all from falling victim to Muslim activists flexing their muscle.

At Bradford West, Max Madden had assiduosly cultivated the Muslim vote, and spoken repeatedly about Kashmiri independence in the Commons. But this did not prevent his deselection before the election. Subsequent infighting between Muslim factions allowed a Sikh, Marsha Singh, to become the candidate, and win the seat.

Muslim activists are determined to use their electoral power to influence Labour policies. Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, leader of Britain's Muslim Parliament, stated: "The problem is not that British Muslims are trying to influence the political process too much; it is they are doing nothing like

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Straw rejects call for law to protect British Muslims



Fatima Beltagui wearing her hijab, the main theme of an exhibition on 'The Veil in Islam' at the St Mungo Museum in Glasgow Photograph: Colin

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Nintendo opens games price war

A computer game price war follow suit just three weeks latbroke out yesterday as Nintener after sales of its new console do slashed the price of its game proved disappointing. console in response to a new giveaway by arch-rival PlayStation. It marks the latest shot in the bruising battle for customers in the run-up to Christmas.

From tomorrow the price of the Nintendo 64 games console will fall from £149.99 to £99.99. It comes less than a week after Sony launched the PlayStation Value Pack. Customers paying £129.99 for a PlayStation now get a memory card and a second controller for an extra say a week is a long time in polplayer, worth about £33.

The aggressive price cut is the latest in an increasingly bitter conflict between Nintendo and Sony in the United Kingdom which goes back to 1995, when the PlayStation was launched. Since then Sony has captured more than 50 per cent of the computer games market,

selling 1.4 million consoles. Last March saw the launch of the new Nintendo 64, billed as the most powerful games console on earth. However, just 24 hours before it was due to hit the shelves, Sony siashed the price of the PlayStation by after toys this Christmas. £100. Nintendo was forced to

The latest price cut, however, signals that Nintendo is determined to wrestle the initiative from Sony. Nintendo has also stepped up the pressure on PlayStation by reducing the price of flagship games such as Super Mario by £10 to £49.99.

A Nintendo spokesman said: "We want to dominate the market. PlayStation will be looking behind their backs now. Anything could happen next. They ities, but that is nothing compared to this industry."

A PlayStation spokesman said: "PlayStation has established itself as market leader in every country around the world. Because we have sold over 20 million units we can now afford to bring PlayStation to more people. We fully expect to dominate this Christmas as we have done

every Christmas since launch." However, Nintendo and PlayStation will still have to compete with the Teletubbies and Spice Girl dolls which are expected to be the most sought

- Andrew Yates



Galliano: First time British Designer of the Year title has been shared

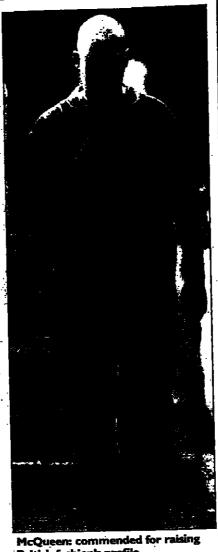
Fashion duo's winning act

John Galliano and Alexander McQueen were last night jointly awarded the British Designer of the Year title. It is the first time it has been shared but the decision, by the British Fashion Council, with votes from industry, has been well-received. It is accepted that the two contrasting designers have raised the profile of British fashion beyoud all expectations. Second in importance to

their award is the one for New Generation, and 28-year-old Antonio Berardi beat the rest of the young guns. He has quickly become a main London attraction for his attention to beautiful detail and for the pure sexiness of his clothes. Other awards went to Jigsaw

for best retailer, Pearce Fionda for glamour, milliner Philip Treacy for accessories, John Smedley for classic design and Nicole Farhi for contemporary collections. A new award for menswear design went to Paul Smith. Bruce Oldfield presented a special tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, honouring her contribution to British fashion.

Melanie Rickey Photographs: Ben Elwes



British fashion's profile

Immigration chiefs fear influx of more gypsy 'refugees'

Frank Citale

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Immigration officials fear a "copycat" influx of gypsies from across Central and Eastern Europe after the arrival of hundreds of Czech and Slovak asylum-seekers in Britain. Politicians from Conservative and Labour-controlled councils in Kent will meet the Home Office minister, Michael O'Brien, this afternoon to discuss the financial impact of accommodating the increasing number of arrivals at Dover and call for the introduction of visas.

Alexander Bruce-Lockhart, Tory leader of Kent Council County, who is part of the delegation which will lobby for more money to deal with the cost of accommodating the families and educating the children, said a senior immigration official told him that the problems could worsen because of television coverage overseas about the arrivals which, according to council officials, painted Kent as "the land of milk and honey".

Mr Bruce-Lockhart said: "[The immigration official] said that in Poland they are screening film of these people arriving here. He said it's possible it might encourage others from Poland to join the main exodus."

Victim locked up with abuser

A young offender who had been abused as a child was locked up on the same prison wing as his attacker, according to a report published today. The man, who could have been as young as 15, was being kept in a unit for vulnerable prisoners. "Fortunately the abuser did not recognise his victim," said Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prison, in his study of Cardiff jail, which highlights the dangers of putting young offenders alongside adult immates.

Sir David called for prison staff to be given more information about inmates, such as probation, social service, medical, education and police reports, to ensure victims did not have to face their assailants. He said that overcrowding was forcing the authorities to house young offenders aged from 15 to 21 with adults on the same landing. However, Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, questioned the accuracy of the comment and said if the inspectorate had evidence of the allegation it should be given to the service.

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DAILY POEM

The Twa Corbies

As I was walking all alane I heard twa corbies making a mane; The tane unto the t'other say, "Where sall we gang and dine to-day?"

" In behint yon auld fail dyke, I wot there lies a new-slain Knight; And naebody kens that he lies there, But his hawk, his hound, and lady fair.

"His hound is to the hunting gane, His hawk to fetch the wild-fowl hame, His lady's ta'en another mate, So we may make our dinner sweet.

"Ye'll sit on his white hause-bane, And I'll pick out his bonny blue een: Wi' ae lock o' his gowden hair We'll theek our nest when it grows bare. "Mony a one for him makes mane,

But nane sail ken where he is gane; O'er his white banes, when they are bare, The wind sall blaw for evermair." This week's poems come from Poets on Poets, a 400-page

stone's (£9.95). Almost 100 modern poets present work from anthology from Car poets of the past. Matthew Sweeney introduces his selection of Border Ballads; The Twa Corbies was first collected in Walter Scott's Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border in 1802. "Corbies" are crows; a "fail dyke" a turf wall; a "hause-

bane" a neck-bone; "theek" means line.

THE INDEPENDENT Win a set of MGM Westerns and a "Magnificent Seven"



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Royal retreat in search of new way forward

The Queen has ambitious and controversial plans for her Balmoral estate, where she is wrestling with the same

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EPENDENT

MGM Westerns

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Arizona

refugees,

environmental problems besetting other owners of great tracts of Scottish highland. Nicholas Schoon was given a guided tour.

The Queen has no qualms about charging her subjects more to visit Balmoral. Nor is she reluctant to ask the Government - and therefore taxpayers - to help finance conservation activities on her 55,000-acre estate, where the public are fairly free to roam.

She is seeking about £250,000 in grants to plant nearly 600 acres of new forest, greatly expanding the existing Scots pine woodlands, "If grants are available we'll go for them." said Peter Ord, the estate manager. "We couldn't afford to be doing it without them." He feels the fact the Queen now pays income tax makes such applications less awkward.

The point of these new woodlands is not to provide timber, but to create wildlife habitat and change the scenery. They will make the estate more like the untarned wilderness it was several thousand years ago, before most of its forest

It is a visionary plan, for which approval from the Government's Forestry Authority is awaited. With such a harsh climate and poor soil, the trees will not mature until Prince William is past the usual retirement age. It may also be controversial, because several miles of fencing will be put up - starting next summer - to stop red deer eating and killing the young trees. These fences are known to kill the capercaille, a

forests with a tendency to thy into them at high speed.

Some conservation groups say trees can be grown in the Highlands without fences and without being munched to death, provided the deer are culled. They would once have been the prey of wolves and culling would maintain a more natural ecological balance.

But the Royal Family enjoys its stalking and insists Balmoral will remain primarily a sporting estate. The aim is to keep a relatively high deer population, 2,500 or more. which would allow 200 stags to he shot each year. Fences are essential to protect young forests and allow existing woodland to regenerate.

The Royal Family is also courting controversy as it grapples with the rising tide of walkers enjoying - but also threatening - the area's sombre beauty. Each year, over 100,000 people drive up a dead-end road to the Spittal of Muick, on Balmoral's southern edge. For much of the year, the 60-space car park overflows on to the narrow road, churning up verges. Many footpaths across the estate and up its 3,791ft peak, Lochnagar, are badly eroded by walkers. About £100,000 a year is now spent on paying rangers and on repairing footpaths, but only £30,000 comes from the Queen; the

Along with other landowners, authorities and consultants, Balmoral is promoting the creation of an Upper Deeside Public Access Trust, which will attempt to find the best ways of allowing as many as possible to enjoy the area without damaging it. One option is to introduce a car parking charge of £3-£5. Another is to close the road at peak times and run a shuttle bus service.

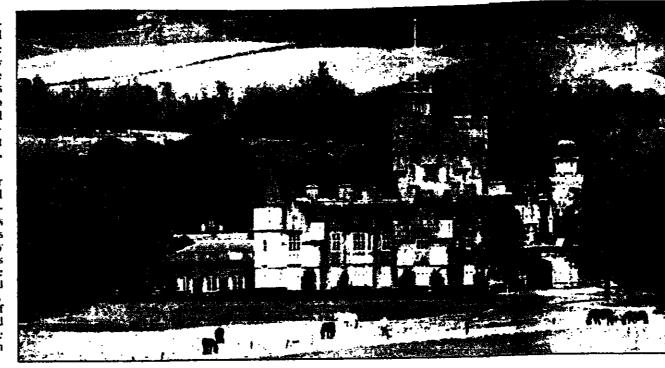
Any changes will be with the agreement of the authorities and other landowners and after extensive consultation. Bal-

large, rare bird of highland moral will not be acting alone. Entry charges at Balmoral

will be raised when the house and gardens are open from May to July next summer. Only the ballroom in the castle is opened, and there are no plans to change that. Nor will the public be allowed in during the peak months of August and September, when the Royal Family is in residence.

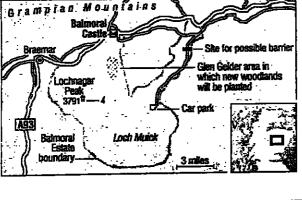
But while Balmoral is far from being exploited to the full as a tourist moneyspinner, visitor charges are still the estate's biggest carner. Timber sales come in second, followed by sales of venison. Mr Ord says Balmoral, with 50 full-time staff, loses money overall, and he is looking for new income.

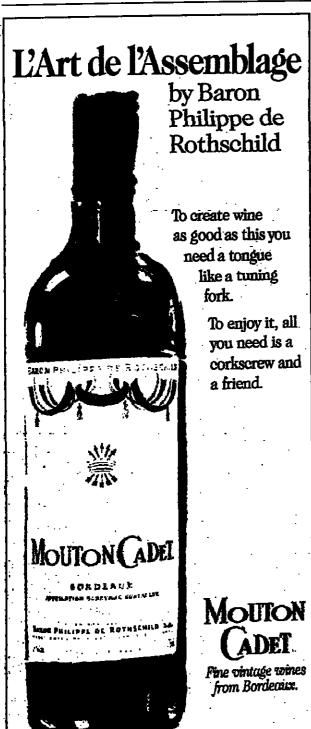
Balmoral's nine-hole golf course is available for limited corporate hospitality, while some of the deer stalking is on offer at £275 a stag.



Castie home: The Queen is planning 600 acres of new forest at Balmoral to encourage wildlife and restore the landscape of a bygone age Photograph: Chris Bacon

bulk is from government grants.







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Bishops force a retreat over **church** schools

Ministers are preparing to climb down over proposals in the **Education White Paper which** affect church schools. The move came as Church of England bishops threatened to vote against parts of the education Bill in the House of Lords unless the Government thinks again. judith Judd, Education Editor, looks at the row.

More than 50 years after the churches secured their present partnership with the state in education through the 1944 Education Act, their influence remains powerful. The bishops yesterday took the unusual step of calling a press conference to publicise their concern about the White Paper. They did so, they said, because ministers were threatening the future of de-nominational schools "by muddle rather than malevolence."

And they feared the Bill to be introduced in Parliament next month could unravel arrangements which have helped to ensure the distinctive ethos and popularity of 6,500 church schools. Although only the Church of England bishops sit in the Lords, the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches are also concerned about the plans. The Prime Minister, who sends his Catholic school, is likely to be particularly sensitive to their criticism.

The Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Rev David Young, who chairs the board of education of the Church of England's general synod, said: "The mood of the bishops is that if we are not satisfied we would want to make that clear. We would be looking for amendments as the Bill went through to Parliament." His message for Mr Blair was: "These schools are excellent and sought-after and we wish that position to he maintained."

Within hours, Stephen Byers, the school-standards minister, promised that the Government would not be introducing any measures which would weaken or diminish church schools. Details of the concessions are expected to emerge at a meeting with church representatives on

Monday. The bishops' concern centres on the section of the White Paper which proposes three categories of schools, foundation, community or aided.

This assumes most voluntary-aided church schools would become aided, grantmaintained schools would become fourdation and local authority schools would become community.

Ministers are understood to be ready to give way over the plan that the majority enjoyed by church governors in aided schools would be reduced from two or three to one to make way for more parent governors. Churches have suggested one of the church governors might be a parent.

The Government is also believed to be reparing a concession over its proposal that 2,700 voluntary controlled schools should become foundation schools, the category created for the former grant-maintained schools. Controlled schools are church foundations and the church owns the buildings but they are maintained by the local authority, unlike voluntary-aided schools, which manage their own buildings and contribute 15 per cent towards the

The bishops fear controlled schools, many of which have voted against grantmaintained status, will opt for community status rather than foundation status and break their links with the church. They are also worried by the proposal that voluntary controlled schools would not be able children to a grant-maintained Roman to keep their church religious education syllabuses and would have to use one approved by the local authority.

Ministers are, however, unlikely to give way to church concerns about losing control over admissions. At present, voluntary-aided schools decide their own admissions policy in consultation with the local authority. The White Paper says an independent adjudicator will decide disputes between the school and the authority. Geoffrey Duncan, secretary of the board of education, said he was sure the Government did not intend to break its manifesto commitment to maintaining church schools. "But if the church's status is reduced, if its power over admissions is reduced, if we have fewer church-appointed governors, you can infer that that promise is not being entirely kept."

In the Eye: Education +



Jason, a pupil at a learning-support centre, with teacher Louise Smith at Saffron Walden County High School, Essex

Photograph: Brian Harris

Hostage letter n the price reedon

Labour plan to resolve special needs dilemma

More of the 1.4 million children with special needs should be in mainstream schools, the Government thinks, its Green Paper tries to end the debate about where they should be taught, says Judith Judd, Education Editor.

Almost one in five pupils has special educational needs and many could flourish independently if they were given the right support, David Blunkett, Secretary of

State for Education, said. Teachers reminded the Government that such children may be very difficult

required if they were to be educated in a tiny proportion of special-needs chilordinary schools. Special schools would not disappear but would be used for fewer children for shorter periods, Mr Blunkett said. Their expertise would be used to support pupils in mainstream schools.

What we cannot have are children sent to special schools and presumed to be there for the rest of their lives," added Mr Blunkett, who was educated at a residential special school for the blind.

The number of children in special schools is falling sharply. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said the Government must be in Cloud-cuckoo-land if it believed it could raise standards and return the most disruptive children to mainto teach and that more funding would be stream classrooms. Mr Blunkett said only

dren had emotional and behavioural disorders. There was no question of children remaining in the classroom if they were disrupting others' lives.

Yesterday's document was concerned with all types of special needs, which include the blind, the deaf and the dyslexic. One of its most controversial proposals is that the 3 per cent of children with "statements" of need which entitle their schools to extra cash should be reduced to 2 per cent.

Ministers believe the system of statementing is bureaucratic and wasteful and that the money would be better spent helping children earlier in their school careers. The number of children with statements has risen from 153,000 to 233,000 since 1991 and there are 2,000 cases be-

fore tribunals as parents challenge decisions by local education authorities about how their children's needs should be met.

About one-seventh of local authorities' budget - £2.5bn - is spent on special needs. Ministers say they want value for money, not cost-cutting. The paper proposes that all parents of special-needs children would be supported by independent advisers who would, if necessary, negotiate with schools on their behalf.

Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said: "The right to a statement will remain. But some parents are pushing for a statement as a way of getting resources for their children they don't feel they can get any other way. It is not right for these children to have to wait the 18 months that this process can take."

Leading article, page 22



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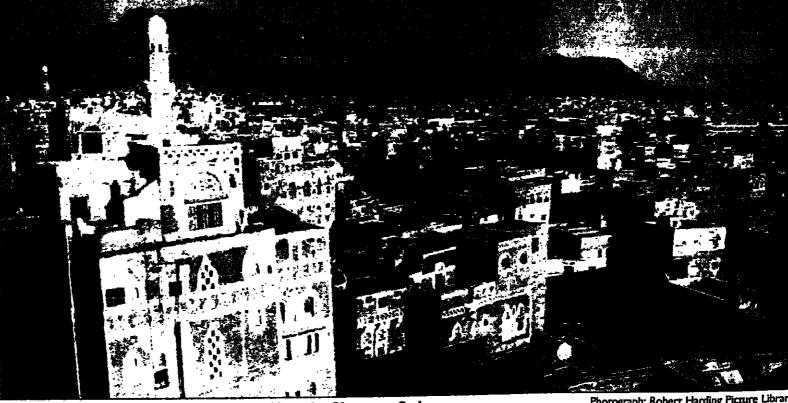
or pay when you arrive. (By car rather than UFO please.)



Manual D. Relinin and I were abheled at 12,10 on Sunday 18th on the road just both 11. Walson-March at a piece called Al-Kiraus or Ban Delogon. It's a voing beautiful place -.

The people have touted me very will we are very Conference, will find and the people are countries. The paper here, some 17 families - have a winder of gradients with government and want to discuss the And more than you is a sender in the import, would chart

> the city of Marib. The fact the kidnappers allowed Mr Thompson to give such precise details of where he is shows they are confident the government



Hostage's letter names the price of freedom



tribesmen (pictured

nma

will make no attempt to free him by an armed assault. Mr Thompson, who has experience in aid work, chiefly in Africa, is worried he will not be able to complete his project for the aid agency and wants "to stay in Yemen to complete most of my work before leaving". He says he is being treat-Henry Thompson, the ed well, which is in keeping with the experience of other kidnap British aid worker victims in Yemen, and "we are kidnapped by Yemeni very comfortable, well fed and

the people are courteous". above) has been allowed All this is probably true, although the letter will have been seen by the kidnappers. explaining how he was Their purpose in passing it on captured. Patrick Cockburn to the Interior Ministry - preanalyses the letter sumably through tribal interobtained by The mediaries - is to state their Independent, sent from demands. Mr Thompson says there are 17 families where he the tribal stronghold is kept - in the territory of the south of the city of Bani Dabyan (usually spelt Marib where Mr Bani Zabyan in English) and Thompson is being held. they want the government to discuss the provision of better social services such as "watersupply, road, clinic, etc". He It is a relaxed letter, sent by asks for the Interior Ministry to Henry Thompson, a 38-year-old be contacted "to help in negotiating my release". "Negotiat-

British aid worker, four days after he and his driver, Mohammed Abdul-Rahman, were kidnapped just north of the town of Mabar, 45 miles south of the capital Sana'a. It is addressed to "Yamamoto-San", a diplomat at the Japanese embassy who is in charge of Japan's aid to Yemen. Mr Thompson had been working for the Japan International Co-operation Agency.

But in fact the letter was sent, through the kidnappers, to the Yemeni Interior Ministry, which handles most security

SAUDI ARABIA

ing" is the only word underlined in the whole letter. The negotiations are being overseen by Naji al-Soufi, the governor of Sana'a, who comes from the district where Mr Thompson is being held. A tribal sheikh who saw Mr Thompson on Monday said be was well. Yemeni officials do not believe social grievances are the Bani Zabyan's sole motive for the kidnapping. They say the government has usually got

people released by paying money and making gifts. such as four-wheeldrive cars. In Mr Thompson's case, however, there are unconfirmed reports that the kidnappers want a letter of guarantee saying their demand for a road water supply and a clinic will be met.

In private, the government believes the rash of kidnappings in Yemen since 1990 is inspired by Saudi Arabia, which has traditionally kept

matters in Yemen. The words in Arabic across the top of the page simply say a copy of the document has been kept.

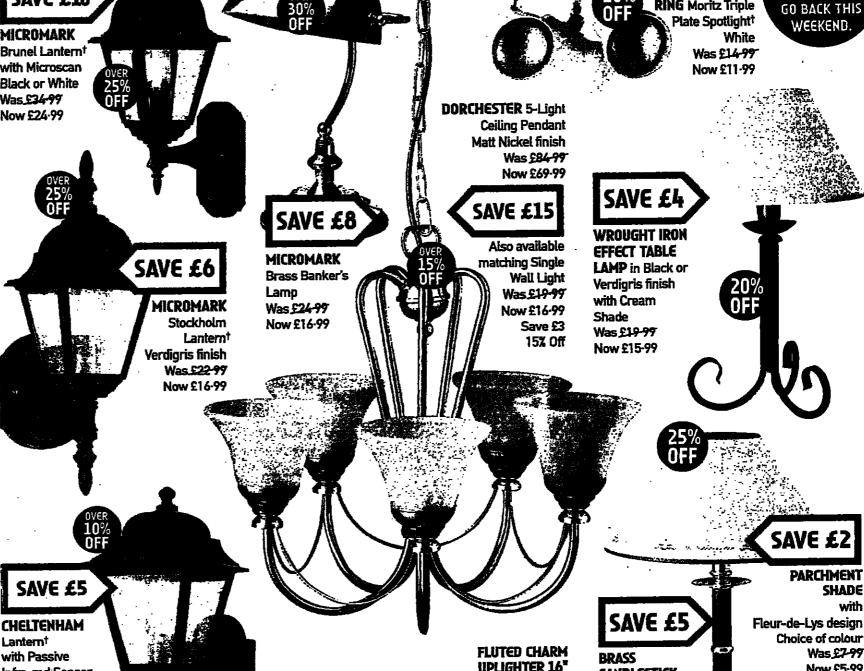
According to his letter, Mr Thompson was captured four days earlier than originally assumed by the Yemeni government and the British embassy. He explains how he and Mohammed Abdul-Rahman were "abducted at 12.10 on 12 Sunday on the road just north of Mabar". This is on the main road between Sana's and Taiz, the country's second biggest city. He confirms he is held at "Bani Dabyan", south-west of

the tribes in the north and east

Tribesmen against a rise in the price of diesel this week clashed with the army just south of where Mr Thompson was kidnapped. Unconfirmed reports say two tribesmen and one soldier were

■ Sana'a (AP) - Yemeni tribesmen holding Mr Thompson hostage have refused to negotiate with the government and are demanding a ransom, security officials said yesterday. The size of the ransom was not

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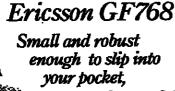
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THE INDEPENDENT 23 OCTOBER 1997

THURSDAY

12/NEWS



Bombed City church cleared for millennium peace centre

Clearance work has begun on St Ethelburga's, a medieval church in the City of London bombed four years ago by the IRA, so it can be converted into a centre for peace and reconciliation.

With agreement from the Corporation of London and English Heritage, workmen yesterday started to remove the rubble and broken masonry caused by

the Bishopsgate bomb The Bishop of will restore the church using materials London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, is pleased with the progress of the £4m project and intends to get planning permission by the end of the year so it is ready in time for the millennium.

Purcell Miller Tritton, a firm of architects known for conservation work on Canterbury and Winchester Cathedrals,

salvaged from the bombing. St Ethelburga's, built in 1390, survived the Great Fire of London and the Blitz, but was damaged by an IRA bomb at the Baltic Exchange in 1992. It was partly destroyed by a second IRA bomb in Bish-

opsgate the following year.

Council gives way in elderly-care row

against the charity Help the Aged, a local authority yesterday backed down and agreed to pay care-home bills for the elderly rather than try to fight its case in the House of Lords.

The plight of two Merseyside pensioners first alerted staff at Help the Aged to the fact that Sefton Council was not following all the Government social-security regulations on providing care for the elderly.

The rules, made in November 1995, outline a sliding scale in which a council should provide financial help for residents needing care in a home if they have savings of less than £16,000 - and meet the whole bill for those with savings of less than £10,000.

Yet, despite a ruling by the Court of Appeal that they should pay the bills, Sefton Council pleaded poverty and refused to make any provision for the pursing fees of those who had made their own private care arrangements until their savings had dwindled to less

But at a meeting on Tuesday the social-services committee agreed to drop its plan to ap-

After a lengthy legal battle peal to the House of Lords and paid for nursing and residential home care would be repaid with

Alan Lewis, assistant director for older people and hospitals, said: "This decision only involves those people who make their own arrangements for care and then come to us for help when their assets had run out Everyone else has always. been treated in accordance. with the government rules.

"But now years of financial stringency have paid off and after reviewing our financial circumstances we found that we are now able to meet the provisions affecting this particular group of people.

The move, which is believed to affect around 70 pensioners in Merseyside, was welcomed by charities.

Alyson Rose, of Help the Aged, said: "We are absolutely delighted this case has finally ended after such a long battle on behalf of older people in and out of the courts. It means that those people in Merseyside can stop worrying about having no money."

Spurs chairman's winning formula

Alan Sugar returned to his old school yesterday to persuade its students that they, too, might have the spark to set up their

But the businessman and Tottenham Hotspur chairman who has been recruited by the Treasury to spread the message to budding young entrepreneurs in the nation's schools warned that success requires hard work, focus and determination". He was joined at Hackney

Community College, formerly Brooke House, in east London, by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the start of an 11-city "you can do it too" tour.

Mr Sugar said: "I started out in business in Hackney as a kid youngsters of Hackney can do an artist. here today.

not to lecture them, but actually show them that business can

be fun and that the rewards of hard work and common sense can be even more fun."

In 1960, Mr Sugar's school report said: "Alan can do better than this. He has ability, but seems afraid to use it."

But he had inherited a hard-work ethic from his father, a tailor, and soon began putting it to profitable use. As a child he collected soft drinks bottles for the refunds.

After school, he set up the Amstrad computer business which was responsible for the huge growth in personal computers in Britain in the 1980s.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Mr Sugar said that you could not manufacture entrepreneurs. "You cannot make someone into an and earned a living there as a contrepreneur, just like you can't kid, doing things that the make someone a pop singer or

"It has to be in-built in you, "I want to burn the spirit of it's a kind of a nose for things, entrepreneurship into them a smell for things, and then an instinct to do it and a focus." — Louise Jury



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Boy who died in dentist's MAJOR SERVICE chair had syndrome

said to be "distraught". How-

ever, the BTP already felt able

to say there seemed to be no

suspicious circumstances and

the incident was a "tragic acci-

dent". Officers had interviewed

many witnesses, including the

driver, who had been offered

But RMT general secretary

Jimmy Knapp said: "This tragic accident emphasises the ne-

cessity for rail safety not to be

viewed purely in cash terms and

that guards should be intro-

duced on all services as a mat-

and the Picadilly line suspend-

ed between Hyde Park Corner

and King's Cross following the

Holborn station was closed

ter of urgency."

A boy of 14 who died during a visit to the dentist had been suffering from a serious medical condition.

Bradley Miller failed to regain consciousness after an anaesthetic at a dental surgery in Barnsley, South Yorkshire because he had a "most unusual syndrome", a policewoman said but would not give details to protect the privacy of the boy's family. "This is not a healthy 14-year-old boy who went to the den-

tist and died. He had been poorly for some time. We do not know ourselves what the syndrome was," she said. "There is no criminal investigation. This was a tragedy. He

had the best possible care and at this stage it looks like it is simply a tragedy which is down to his condition." Bradley, of Darton, Barnsley, died on Tuesday while he was

still under anaesthetic. He had been referred to the surgery by his orthodontist and a consultant anaesthetist from the local hospital was present to assist.

When the teenager failed to regain consciousness both tried to revive him unsuccessfully. An initial post-mortem failed to establish the exact cause of death and further tests are being carried out. A spokeswoman for the surgery, said: "We have every sympathy with Bradley's parents."

The family were too upset to comment. — Michael Streeter

Child killed in Tube accident

A young boy died under a

Tube train when a toggle on his

anorak caught in the doors

and dragged him along a

cluding the youngster's foster

father, watched in horror as the

nine-year-old was pulled under

the train at Holborn station in

The youngster, from Tot-

tenham, north London, died in-

stantly on the Picadilly line northbound platform. It is not

clear whether he had been try-

ing to board the train although

his foster father did not get on.

are expected to emerge when

British Transport Police inter-

view the foster father who was

More details of the tragedy

central London yesterday.

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crowded platform.

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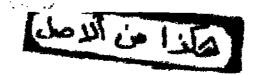
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TUESDAY 28

Cancer drug trial lacking volunteers

Women at a high risk of breast cancer were urged yesterday to volunteer for a clinical trizi which could provide a breakthrough in preventing the disease. Scientists hope the anticancer drug tamoxifen could reduce cases by 50 per cent in women at high risk. But if there are not enough volunteers the trial may collapse says Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent.

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P TYRES

Scientists said yesterday that they hoped cases of breast cancer in women with a strong family history of contracting the disease could be reduced by up to a half if an anti-cancer drug proves effective in preventing the disease.

"This is probably the most important question in breast cancer today - can we prevent it as well as trying to treat it? It could be the beginning of something very, very big," said Dr Jack Cuzick, the study's scientific director.

But he warned that Britain's only clinical trial investigating tamoxifen could fail unless more women come forward to take part. Britain is playing a key role in the International Breast Cancer Intervention Study, which has a target of 7.000 volunteers world-wide. The British arm, however, has only recruited 2,200 women against the target of 5,000.

"We are having problems in recruitment because many eligible groups of women don't even know about the trial," said Dr Cuzick. "Women who are well may also be reluctant to go into a trial which involves taking a drug as a preventive measure. But the study is vitally important because tamoxifen may offer the only preventive option for women at a high fam-

Half the women on the trial receive the anti-cancer drug while the rest are given a placebo. Each woman has a check-up every six months and a mammogram every 12-18 months.

Tamovifen, which was first introduced in 1969, is already the leading drug treatment for breast cancer and is taken by more than a million women around the world. At present, one in 12 women in the United Kingdom will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives and 14,000 women die of the disease every year.

Studies show that giving women the drug for more than two years after a breast cancer operation saves nearly 9 per cent extra lives and cuts women's chances of developing new tumours in their other breasts by more than 40 per cent. It also improves bone strength in post-menopausal women, helps to prevent esteoporosis and reduce blood fats which helps to prevent heart disease.

Side-effects include hot flushes and a small risk of cancer of the womb lining; doctors believe that the usual risk of the disease rises from 3 per 10,000 post-menopausal women each year to 6-9 per 10,000 per year.

"This increased risk can understandably be worrying for women - but it is important to put it in context," said Professor Tony Howell, a Cancer Research Campaign consultant on the trial. "For women on the trial the chance of them developing cancer of the womb lining is far less than their chance of developing breast cancer. Cancer of the womb lining is also relatively easy to cure.

Dr Cuzick warned that failure of the British contribution could threaten the whole project. "We need enough numbers to come up with clear answers."

Linda Hinds, 39, who joined the trial three years ago, said her mother, grandmother and aunt all died from breast cancer when they were young. "I was 18 when my mother died," she said. "To see someone die of breast cancer is unbelievable. It's absolutely horrible. We said to the hospital before she died 'can't you just do something - to put her and her family out of their misery?" And she

• Any woman aged 35 to 70 who is at high family risk of breast cancer and wants more details about the trial can call 0171 269 3151.



Chris Warne, whose death this week is thought to be due to v-CJD Photograph: Page One

Fitness fanatic dies as CJD toll rises

A 36-year-old fitness fanatic who died this week is reckoned to be the 21st to die in Britain of a fatal illness caused by BSE, or mad cow disease, in the past three

The death of Chris Warne, from Ripley in Derbyshire, of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (v-CJD) came amid warnings that any epidemic of the disease could bring a care crisis in 20 years. The CID Support Network, run by families who have lost relatives to the illness, said that if the number of cases of the brain disease, caused by eating BSEinfected food, rose dramatically over the next two decades, then health and social

services would not be able to cope. Mr Warne was a computer systems analyst and keen on sports. His parents insisted that he had never worked with animals. He was only diagnosed as having v-CJD, which causes depression and increasing lack of co-ordination, followed by coma and death, in August. Doctors at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary were vesterday awaiting the results of a post mortem, which is necessary to confirm any diagnosis of v-CJD.

A growing weight of scientific data has shown that v-CJD, which was only identified clinically in 1996, is caused by the same disease agent that causes BSE in cattle. More than 160,000 BSE cases have

been confirmed in British cattle since 1985, but hundreds of thousands more animals infected with the disease would have entered the food chain.

Scientists are still unsure how infective BSE is to humans, and cannot rule out the possibility that many thousands of people may be affected in the next 20 years, as the disease could take decades

to incubate before symptoms show. The CJD Support Network has called on the Government to develop a national strategy to enable social services and health teams to cope.

Gillian Turner, of the Network, told Community Care magazine: "The Government must prepare health and social workers to go into action to help clients who develop all forms of CID. This preparation must include a full range of dementia services in every district, backed by adequate resources."

Terry Philpot, editor of Community Care, said: "The Government needs to look at this situation very carefully. An explosion of CJD cases may have enormous implications for social services and resources. The Department of Health needs to develop cross-agency policies between health and social services to ensure proper care for people with this deadly disease."

— Charles Arthur, Science Editor

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



THE INDEPENDENT

IN SPAIN BULLS ARE SET ALIGHT AT VILLAGE FIESTAS.

CRUELTY OR **CULTURE?**

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF. READ OUR SPECIAL REPORT ON TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in? An obvious choice would be a close friend.

But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

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Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy

The Samaritans We'll go through it with you.

Why Kent is all abroad for France

Residents of Kent - the Garden of England -- see their futures in a select есолотіс zone called Region Transmanche. Michael Streeter examines a population of 15 million. very European view of regionalism.

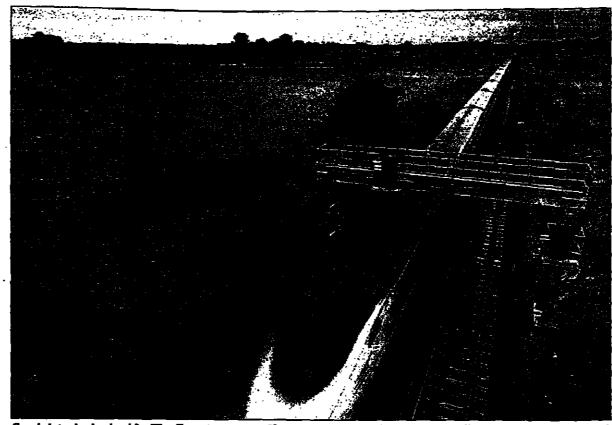
No one demonstrates on the streets of Guildford or Folkestone to represent the neglected voice of the South-east. The passion which demands local autonomy for regions such as Yorkshire and the West Country barely registers in the South-

An area which, based on boundaries, stretches down

ty of Colin Cowdrey, fruit orchards and the Darling Buds of May, has embraced its near neighbours across the water and is part of a European Union region which boasts a The area, which takes in

Kent, the French district of Nord-Pas de Calais and all three regions of Belgium, is known as Region Transmanche and has an increasingly powerful voice when it comes to obtaining EU money from Brussels. Kent's membership means it can share in grants for inter-regional projects in a programme known as Interreg. It has received around £60m in extra funding through its links.

The Euroregion builds on government administrative existing connections between the areas through ferries, the from Oxfordshire, skirts around Channel Tunnel and Trans-London, and ends up in the far manche - a link between Kent reaches of Kent, taking in a and Nord-Pas de Calais. Busipopulation of nearly 8 million, nesses on both sides of the wahas virtually no sense of iden- ter are on a joint Internet tity, no roots, no separate tra- databank, to allow easy codition. Yet regionalism is operation between firms. Comflourishing in the far south-east muting to work, both ways, becorner of England. Kent, countween England and France is



Semi-detached suburbia: The Eurostar crosses Kent en

becoming increasingly common. Schoolchildren are crossing the Channel for their French lessons, householders do their weekly shopping in Gallic supermarkets and some

British friends now gather for an end of week get-together in France rather than their local pub. Leaders of the five local authorities involved meet for-

mally twice a year, and more

often at informal gatherings. The Kent County Council leader Alexander Bruce-Lockhart says: "Kent is very happy to be seen as a European county. Nobody feels that they are part of a South-east region. There is no regional identity, no popular demand."

He speaks as leader of the ruling Conservative group but considers the developing links with European neighbours to

be based on practicalities rather than ideology. "It's all about geography," he says. "For example I can get a train from my local station at Ashford and be in Lille slightly quicker than I can get to London."

The future of the proposed South East Regional Development Board, part of the Government's devolution plans which could lead to assemblies, excites little real enthu-

siasm in Kent. Mr Bruce-Lockhart believes it could have

a useful if limited role but wor-

ries it will take from local

democracy without adding any

new accountability. Labour's Reg Hansell, county councillor for Dover, hopes it will be helpful, but says that existing structures have done relatively little for Kent. "We have gained far more from the European side."

CROSS-CHANNEL COMMUTER



Julian Lucas's lifestyle exemplifies the growing links between Kent and the Continent. Each day he com-Deal across the Channel to Paris," said Mr Lucas. "It mutes from his home near Calais, where he runs a French and English-owned advertising agency called Transmanche Publicité.

"On a good day, if all goes well, I can do the trip in an hour," says Mr Lucas. "Sometimes I go by hovercraft, sometimes I go by train, it depends on the time of year and the weather."

The direction of commuting can cut different ways. There are those British people, like Mr Lucas, who commute to work in France, and others who have sold their British homes and moved to France (where said Mr Lucas. I get the best house prices tend to be lower), but still commute to Kent for their work. And

there are also French people who travel daily.

Brickies Pt

Blue-col workers

DAY HIGH INTER

"I met a Frenchman this morning who lives just outside Dover, and works in works both ways."

The price of commuting can vary a great deal according to the season, and special offers, but Mr Lucas says it can cost as little as £10 a day. "The good thing about the tunnel is that it is open 24 hours a day and is not so affected by the weather."

Not everyone is Kent is delighted with the closer cooperation. "There are some here who want the tunnel to be blocked up and for the barricades to be put up. But in the 15 years I have lived here things have improved, of both worlds. I'm very

__ Michael Streeter

Prescott's masterplan runs into the sand

A turf war among Labour ministers is threatening to delay plans to establish new development agencies for the English regions. David Walker says the creation of elected regional assemblies is receding into the distance.

Ambitious plans hatched by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to expand regional government in England colleagues.

According to Whitehall, intervention from Number 10 showed a "distinct lack of enthusiasm" for the creation of powerful regional development agencies, which were intended to be the precursors of new structures of government in Leeds, Newcastle upon Tyne, Manchester and other regional centres. Instead, a White Paper due

next month from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions - though it may now be delayed - will propose weaker bodies with little or no direct spending responsibilities.

In cabinet committees, Mr

Prescott. The civil service-run government offices for the regions are to be strengthened rather than weakened and work alongside any new agencies; multi-million Single Regeneration Budget.

The White Paper's version of will be pale shadows of those have been whittled down after Secretary of State for Education additional cost. fully fended off takeover of ed assemblies, preparatory Training and Enterprise Councils and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has vetoed regionalisation of inward investment incentives and industrial assistance. The regional bodies will at most acquire planning powers, at present held by councils, and part of the job of assembling and marketing land for development.

One of the Government's headaches is aligning its plans for London with the creation of development agencies in the regions. The North-east is going to be extremely unhappy with anything short of a new public sector agency with a budget of its own and specific responsi-

Prescott's junior minister bility for transport. Meanwhile, Richard Caborn is said to have in London the private sector has been "rolled over" by ministers been lobbying strongly for a unwilling to relinquish powers London Development Agency to the strong regional bodies that resembles the no-cost prioriginally envisaged by Mr vate sector London First; London is to have a separate public transport authority.

A possible compromise is the creation of agencies with a majority of business nominees they will retain control of the but with some right to direct the spending of English Partnerships, the land assembly and regeneration quango, and limited regional development agencies responsibilities for transport co-ordination. They would be proposed in pre-election serviced by the government of-Labour papers. David Blunkett, fices for the regions at minimal

As for the creation of all thinking is being deferred until a second Labour term and even then, according to a source in Yorkshire and Humberside, ostensibly one of the keenest on regional development, "we are unlikely to see anything much happen".

Mr Prescott is likely to be criticised within the Labour Party for putting the cart before the horse by creating new quangos before thinking about their democratic accountability. The White Paper is likely to recommend local authorities and business in the regions to come together in new non-statutory "chambers", but commit no new public money to this.

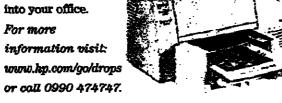
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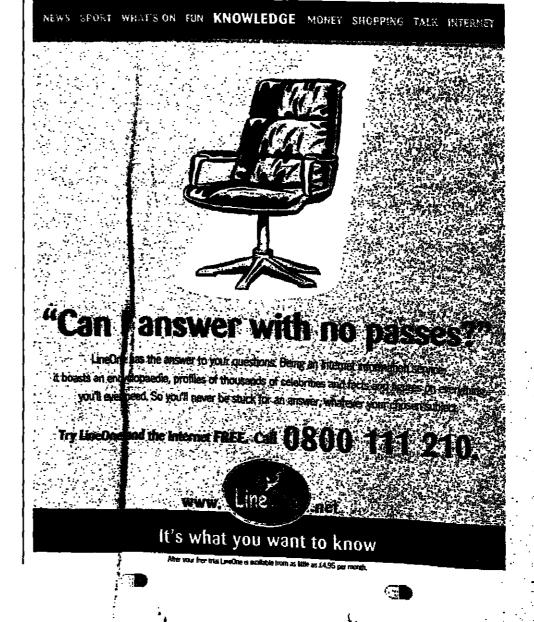




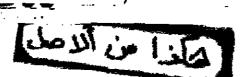
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Brickies pull in £700 a week as South-east goes on a construction spree



The London builder's moneybox his pay packet rather than his rear-end trouser cleavage - is full to overflowing, Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, on a resurgence in the construction industry

Some bricklayers in the South-East of England "won't get out of bed for less than £1,000 a week," according to runours in the building world.

While that may well be an exaggeration, Sir Martin Laing, president and chairman of the construction group John Laing, estimates than brickies can earn up to £700 on some sites. And he has a vested interest in talking rates down.

Such wages constitute a dramatic recovery on the £250 a week carned by those bricklayers lucky enough to find a job during the recession in the early 1990s. Work was sporadic, scarce and, according to the employers' organisation, the Construction Confederation, around 500,000 people left the industry - many of them never to return. Some building workers found them-

selves travelling from site to site "looking for a start" on the few projects that survived the ravages of the recession.

For every job available, there were 10 months compared with those expecting times for the industry, according to employers. It was far worse than the 1930s, because the recession was longer and

But as the economy improved, it prompted a boom in wages in London and the South-East. The scarcity of construction workers was made worse by the exodus from the industry.

The wages explosion has been partieularly marked on large time-sensitive projects such as the Juhilee Underground line. The most sensitive of all are the Millennium projects - a point not lost on people working on the Dome at Greenwich.

But the Construction Confederation says the highest wages are earned on small housing projects where the developer insists work be turned out on time. While bricklayers have increasingly become the building-site aristocrats, other craftsmen are not far behind. Plasterers, painters, carpenters and joiners are all in short supply and can make £500 a week or more.

A confederation survey found 78 per cent of companies nationally reported diffigulties hiring bricklayers and 68 per cent problems finding carpenters and joiners.

The balance of companies planning to take on more staff over the next three

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unemployed. It was certainly the worst of staff cuts had widened from 17 per cent to 26 per cent since the second quarter of this year. Apart from pockets of frenetic activity in city centres, elsewhere in Britain the further you go from London, the lower the wages.

The nationally negotiated guaranteed minimum earnings of £156 for a 39-hour week for a labourer and £188.37 for a craft worker are regarded as something of a joke in most parts of the industry. On the Celtic fringes, however, the joke begins to pale, because pay is substantially lower.

Alan Hughes, of the Construction Confederation, says the £700 a week mentioned by Sir Martin is only rarely obtainable even in the South-East. He concedes, however, that wages vary widely according to location, labour availability and the profits sub-contractors believe they can make. Mr Hughes contends that the industry as a whole is not experiencing a skills crisis, but in the South-East the problem is growing worse by the month. He says the so-called boom in wages is putchy. Those who look with a degree of envy at the aristocratic artisans arriving at work in London in a Merc or Jag can content themselves that all good things come to an end. Come the recession, they will all be back on the bus.

Blue-collar workers a dying species

The lion's share of the best jobs over the next decade will be created in the South-East of England. Barrie Clement looks at a survey which predicts that only one in five of the workforce will be manual workers.

There will be an extra 500,000 "knowledge workers" in the South-East by 2006, while the whole of the West Midlands will only see another 80,000 jobs created, according to the Business Strategies economic forecasting group. After the South-East, the other big beneticiary of the explosion in Iods for "suits" will be the South-

West, with 130,000 jobs. Neil Blake, research director of Business Strategies, said that while the informationtechnology revolution might level out regional differences, it was making matters worse by separating production jobs from the better-paid supporting service jobs. "Despite the increasing pace of development in Scotland's Silicon Glen, the South of England continues to dominate in computer software and support jobs, while other regions lag behind."

The fastest growth in employment over the next decade is likely to occur in personal services such as restaurant and bar staff, but it will be a slower rate of increase than in the past.

Other occupations set to see an increase in demand are technical and associate professionals where jobs will be split equally between men and women. A growth is also likely among managers and sales staff and in both cases it is women who will take most of the jobs.

agers and professionals grows, ment.

the number of jobs for manual workers will decline. Even skilled blue-collar staff, especially in traditional occupations, will face a lower demand for their services, according to the forecasting group.

In 1981 manual jobs skilled and unskilled - made up almost a third of total employment in the economy, but by 1996 that had fallen to 22.4 per cent. By 2006 the proportion will have dropped to 20 per cent. Falls in such kinds of employment will disproportionately hit the North and Scotland.

In 1981 there were nearly 6 million employed in manufacturing and 2.5 million in financial and business services. The two are now equal, at a lit tle over 4 million. Public services continue to be the largest sector and by 2006 they may account for the employment of more than 8 million people. The biggest growth area will be health sector, where an ageing population is expected to contribute to growing demand.

The number of jobs for managers, scientists, doctors, nurses, teachers, computer experts, legal executives and other professionals has risen from 8.7 million in 1991 to 9.2 million last year and is set to rise to 10.5 million by 2006.

That amounts to a forecasted increase of 13.6 per cent, compared with an expected rise in total employment of 5.6 per cent.

Roughly half the increase in employment between 1996 and 2006 will be increased self-employment and the other half by additional part-time jobs. Fulltime employment is unlikely to increase.

Women will probably win and men one-third - although As employment for man-men than women in employLow, low prices on the things you



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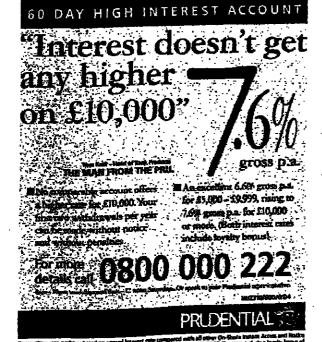
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The Algerian army has poured troops into the Mitidia plain, south of Algiers, and says it has surrounded scores of armed 'Islamists' in the town of Ouled-Aliel and the forest of Bainem. But, as our correspondent discovers in Bentalha, scene of one of the worst massacres last month, villagers and soldiers believe the war against the Islamic Armed Group is far from over.

In Egypt, the police have cut back the sugar cane fields to deny cover to their armed opponents. In Lebanon, the Israelis routinely smashed orchard walls for the same reason. But here, in the soft plain of the

Mitidia, the Algerian army have cut down the trees. And so it is that the scent of burning pine drifts over the landscape, perfurning the killing fields alongside the roads to Sidi Moussa and Bentalha.

Algerian troops are on every laneway now, at checkpoints every half mile, helmeted and flak-jacketed and wearing the sand-coloured camouflage dress of the southern deserts. And at the edge of the slaughtered townships, you can find the ministry of interior's "Patriots", the government-armed villagers who stare sullenly at our little convoy, bejeaned and T-shirted. Kalashnikov rifles over their shoulders. running shoes on their feet. They do not want their pictures taken - and who can blame them? Who wants their picture on French television when the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) is known to make videos of news broadcasts to identify possible targets. And so the survivors of the villages are

as frightened of the future as they are horrified by the past. Most of the people of Bentalha fled after the massacre last month. A few hundred drift back in the mornings; I found two trying to repair the blackened interior of their homes, ignoring my questions while a group of children who had hidden on the roof during the massacres - watched in silence. Another man refused to name his dead wife. "Her name belongs to me," he said, and began to cry.

The pathetic remnants of the families evoke something beyond pity. In each kitchen, the cheap metal trays have been twisted out of recognition, the pots smashed, medicines thrown over the floor. A pile of school books in a garage next to three huge pools of congealed blood showed how earnestly its dead owner had tried - amid the immense poverty of the Algiers slum suburbs - to improve his lot.

The first page of the boy's exercise book

shows his name was Khoreichi; he had practised his declensions and written the biography of his doomed family: "Abdelkader is my father, he is an electrician. Zhor is my mother, she is a dressmaker. Hamid is my uncle, he is a policeman. Sal-

BY ROBERT **FISK**

ima is my aunt, she is a nurse ..." I wondered whether Hamid's job might have sent the family to their deaths. But the survivors said there was no discrimination. One man said he heard the gunmen who entered the village last month shouting that their en-

A man who pleaded with me not to publish his name said he saw the poorer families of Bentalha seeking refuge in a large house in Hijitali street. "It was no good for them," he said. "I stood here at the window and I could hear those poor people screaming and crying. When I looked out of my window, I could see them axing the women on the roof." At least 17 people died in that house alone. In one corner of it, I discovered a book of European art and another on modern Algerian history. Several pages depicted the features of dead martyrs of the 1954-62 independence war against France, their faces disfigured by bullets and shrapnel. How little Algeria's suf-

fering had changed. Nor is it likely to be reduced in the coming months. For while Algeria's Popular Liberation Army - the military descendants of the old FLN guerrilla force - have apparently surrounded two GIA units in the

forests of the Mitidja, discovering caches of arms and heaps of documentation, their officers are warning of a long and hard war to come. Their views are in sharp contrast to those of the government in Algiers whose repeated reassurances that "terrorism" - the authorities' definition of all armed opponents - is all but crushed.

On 20 August, just two days before the massacre of 349 villagers at Rais, President Liamine Zeroual announced that "terrorism is living its last hours in our country." Violent acts were to be regarded as "residual terrorism".

In the daily Le Matin, however, a senior army officer involved in the siege of the village of Ouled Allal - allegedly a GIA stronghold - has criticised what he calls "triumphalist talk about the death of terrorism". The GIA, he said, could still strike, adding grimly that "the killers are still hiding amid the shadows".

Samaritans held to ransom in battle for survival

Two years ago, ancient scrolls of the Samaritans - the tiny community which claims descent from the ancient Kingdom of Israel – were stolen. The thieves want Sim for their return. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem says the theft has exacerbated the sense of vulnerability of the 2,500-year-old sect.

It is two years since three thieves broke down the door of the Samaritans' synagogue in Nablus in the West Bank, crossed the carpeted prayer hall and pushed aside a purple curtain concealing the altar, the Holy of Holies. From inside an ornamental wooden cabinet they stole a 700-year-old scroll of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and a codex of similar age written on parchment bound in red covers.

The theft is a blow which still reverberates through a comty known to the world largely through the parable of "the good Samaritan", in which Jesus chose a member of a sect which the Jews detested as an example of selfless love.

For 2,500 years, Samaritans have lived on the edge of extinction, but they are always

conscious of their historic role. "After the death of King Solomon there was a split," says Abd Mo'in Sadaqa, a Samaritan priest. "We formed the Kingdom of Israel and the Jews the Kingdom of Judah."

They speak ancient Hebrew, believe Moses was the only prophet and accept only the first five books of the Bible. Their identity is also bound with a place - Mount Gerizim, the stony mountain which towers above Nablus on the West Bank. The Samaritans believe it was here, not Jerusalem, that Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. "We do not believe in Jerusalem," said Abd-Moin Sadaqa.

There are just 583 Samaritans in the world, divided between Mount Gerizim and Holon, south of Tel Aviv. In 1917, there were only 146. Binyamin Tsedaka, editor of

their newspaper, A.B. (Aleph-Bet), says however few they are, they still have their own language, history and culture. Each year at Passover, the entire community gathers on Mount Gerizim to sacrifice sheep in a ritual similar to that Samaritans also feel acutely vulnerable and the theft of their Torahs in March 1995 has exacerbated this sense of

In the last century, impoverished Samaritans often sold



which shrank from about 4,000 to only 35. Mr Tsedaka says those that remain are "a symbol of the existence of our

Ever since the theft, the Samaritans have been trying to

the Palestinian leader who now rules Nablus as an independent Palestinian enclave. The Samaritans are the only quasi-Jewish community under his control and he is eager to show his tolerance. They have also

eign Office, and King Hussein

The scroll and the codex are safe but the thieves have taken them to Jordan. Their original demand was for \$7m,

manuscripts, the number of enlist the help of Yasser Arafat, sought the assistance of the US though this was reduced to us a man in a car who showed official in the Palestinian Social Welfare Ministry, who first had contact with the thieves, says: "I went to the Grand Hotel in Amman and waited until

12 o' clock at night. They sent

there were the scrolls. The Samaritans says they do not have that kind of money. Binyamin Tsekada says their remaining manuscripts have now all been moved to their syna-

gogue in their settlement, Kiryat Luza, on Mount Gerizim.

The Samaritans add that, fortunately, the thieves who broke into the synagogue discarded the metal case holding the Torah scroll which was made in 1571 and is worth millions of dollars.

The last contact with the thieves when they reduced their demand to \$1m was in Amman this September. The Samaritans were again shown the scrolls, though they noticed that fragments had fallen off.

The Samaritan leaders stress how helpful everybody has been. Mr Samri says Mr Arafat is "always searching for the good of the Samaritans". When their shops were attacked during the Palestinian Intifada – they have since largely moved from Nablus to Mount Gerizim - he paid for the damage.

But beneath these protestations of gratitude there is a sense of fear, deep but unexpressed. Most of the Samaritans in Gerizim carry Jordanian passports; those in Holon have Israeli passports and serve in

the Israeli army. Mr Samri says: "We are a small community; we have seen out of politics." But the Samaritans may find such neutrality difficult in a land where Israel and the Palestinians fight for

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Bomber Harris was unfairly blamed for terror raids

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single pink carnation had een placed last week at the oot of the statue of "Bomber farris".

The bronze figure stares lefiantly down the Strand, a iero to some but to many othas a lasting symbol of Britain's icknowledgement that, ves, we oo may have behaved badly in he Second World War.

When the statue was uneiled five years ago, it was romptly daubed with bloody

BY IAN BURRELL

ed paint. The former head of lomber Command has posthurously inherited the epitaph as Britain's War Criminal".

But in a new appraisal of the ole of Bomber Command. lichard Overy, professor of nodern history at King's Colge, London, argues that the ontroversial policy of attackig civilian targets in order to estroy German morale was nasterminded not by Harris. ut by the much-admired chief l British air staff, Sir Charles

Drawing on once-classified ocurrents, Professor Overy rgues that Harris disagreed ith the policy but managed work within the strategy j concentrate on industrial

In so doing, he argues. Hars helped bring an early end to the war. The papers show that Portal had framed the moralecrushing strategy as early as June 1941, eight months before Harris even came to Bomber Command.

In a "Bombing Policy Report" drafted for the prime minister, he writes: "The most vulnerable point in the German nation at war is the morale of her civilian population under air

He suggests that "preference to be given to objectives in Germany so situated that bombs which miss their precise target nevertheless directly affect the morale of the German civil population."

Three months later he is even more adamant that civilian morale is the key German weak spot.

He writes: "There is a large and growing body of opinion to the effect that by keeping as many Germans as possible out of bed for as long as possible every night we shall achieve far greater morale effect and not much less material effect than by attempting concentrated attacks with the primary object of material destruction."

Professor Overv said: There's no doubt that Portal's view of bombing is that the critical thing is that it kills people and destroys their houses and, in some unspecified way, the war-willingness of the population ... Portal had this stereotypical view of the Germans that they were bullies and if you punch a bully on the nose he stops fighting.

By April 1942, a few weeks after Harris had taken up his position. Portal had coined a new description for the bombing strategy - Coventration - a reference to the Luftwaffe's devastating raids on Coventry in 1940.

Portal writes: "It was suggested at today's Cabinet that we should make a list of about 25 towns in Germany suitable for Coventration and that this list should be published by the BBC so as to cause alarm and despondency ... '

In the same document, Por-



tal notes that he has spoken to Harris, who is "averse" to such scare factics.

Harris believed that discipline in Germany was such that threats of this nature would not effect morale. By November 1942, Portal was drawing up potential casualty figures, for a stepped-up bombing campaign during 1943 and 1944, in a way that Professor Overy described as "chilling".

The predicted results would include "the destruction of 6

million German dwellings ... 25 million Germans rendered homeless ... an additional 60 million "incidents" of bomb damage to houses ... civilian casualties estimated at about 900,000 killed and 1,000,000

seriously injured". He goes on: "If the attacks were spread over the main urban areas the result would be to render homeless threequarters of the inhabitants of all German towns with a population of over 50,000."

A highly respected administrator with an acute mind, Portal was one of the few people Churchill would take trouble to listen to.

Handsome and publicschool educated, he was also highly regarded by the American air chiefs. By contrast, Harris was a

brusque career airman who had no time for those who disagreed with him.

According to Professor Overy, he "was a man of strong last. In April 1945, when it was

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Mr. 2373 . 23 MAS I for

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<u> P.C.I.S.</u>

ted at to-day's Cabinet that so absolu min a list of street In trans in Greaty spitchle for The strains and that this list should be published by the R.R.C. So as to cause alarm and despondency and the retention of flak. Se should of course be perfectly free to stark temperat on the list and paragelly so should not ative any order for the towns on the list. Will you please ere a segmented list in consultation with Souber Insperd ent are whether they, or the Air Stall, 500 only objection to the course proposed by the Cebinst. Hy our vise is that it would have a good effect so long as we frequently

Off the hook The statue of Sir Arthur Harris in the Strand, London, and part of the Bombing Policy Report' that Sir Charles Portal, chief of British air staff, drafted in 1942, suggesting the terror-bombing campaign usually associated with Harris, head of Bomber Command, for which he has been described by some as a war criminal

views, which hordered at times being argued that German on sheer prejudice".

He was also "terse, businesslike, immensely hardworking and single-minded to a degree".

When his statue was controversially unveiled by the Queen Mother in 1992, some 200 peace protesters tried to disrupt the ceremony and sprayed paint on onlookers. The statue was later daubed with the word "Shame".

By 1944. Harris was still stressing that the role of the heavy-bomber force was "the destruction of the enemy's

industrial centres". Professor Overy said: "Harris himself always thought his job was not to attack morale as a primary objective but to destroy the industrial centres of Germany."

But Portal insisted on the morale-based strategy to the

towns should not be unnecessarily destroyed, as facilities were needed by advancing Allied forces and for reconstruction, Portal overruled the

"Any ultimate political or economic disadvantages of area bombing necessitated by these operations should be accepted,"

views are expressed in a new book, Bomber Command 1939-45, published yesterday, said: "Portal is consistent with his views right through to the end of the war that area bombing, causing high civilian casualties and destruction of housing,

But Professor Overy said that, despite Portal's directives, the single-minded Harris still managed to steer his own path.

The result was that, while Harris was well aware there

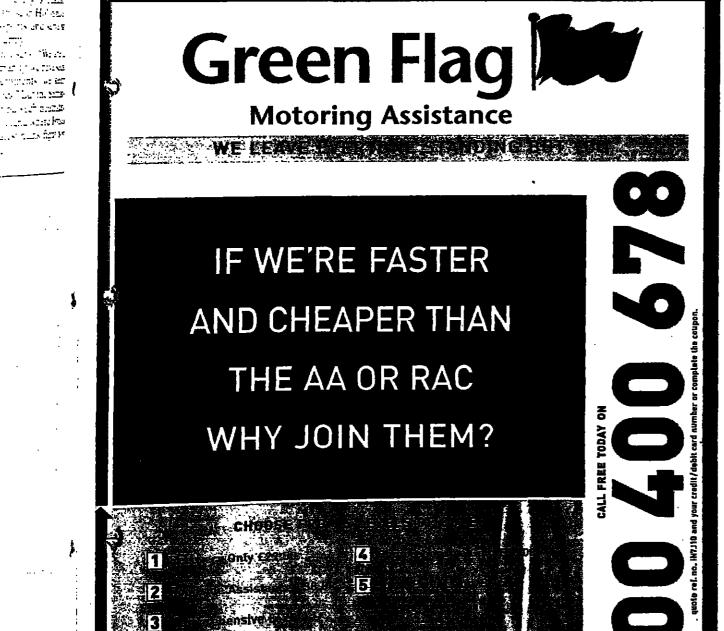
was what was needed."

would be huge casualties from his bombing missions, fewer people died than might have been the case had the Portal strategy been fully implemented. And the war, Professor Overy argues, was successfully

brought to an earlier conclusion. "It was much more successful than people have been Professor Overy, whose

able to accept; this was Britain, a liberal democracy, slaughtering large numbers of Germans in a ghastly way. There is no doubt that people at that time and now felt it was immoral. But the bombing turned out to be a critical factor in limiting Germany's war capability in the last years of the war,"

"People in Germany are starting to talk about the bombings as war crimes in the same breath as the Holocaust or the atrocities on the Eastern Front. Getting the record straight is more important than ever."



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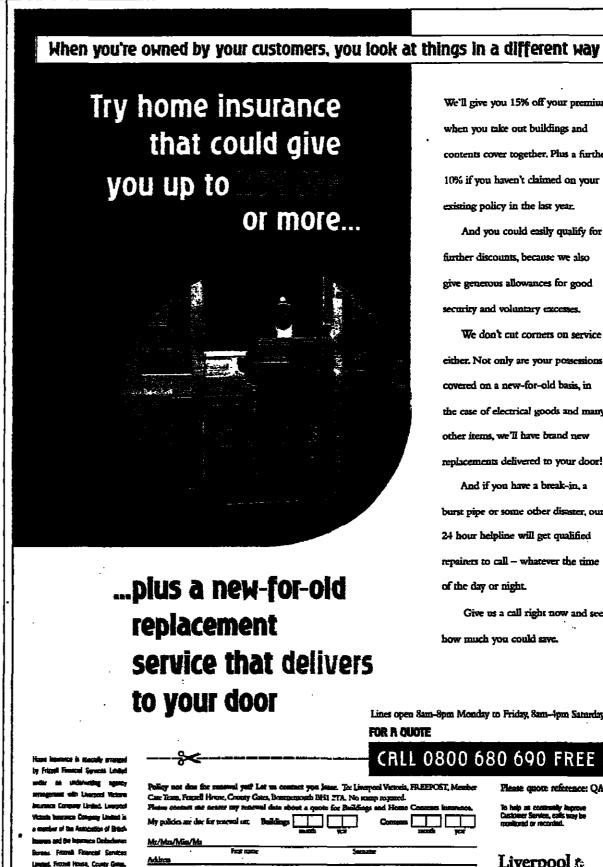
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7.

Tung backs Hong Kong role as Britain's bridge to China

Tung Chee-Hwa, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, started his visit to Britain yesterday by attacking the 'doomsayers whose predictions have been shattered to pieces' since the handover to China four months ago. He told Steve Crawshaw he will defend Hong Kong's separate status.

fice, Mr Tung praised the rule of law as "the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success" and "arguably the finest British legacy". Hong Kong, he said, would seek to preserve that

Speaking at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, he also insisted that Britain should be wary of seeking to impose its own values elsewhere in the

Mr Tung met Robin Cook, the Foreign

On his first visit to Britain since taking of- Secretary, for what was described as "an extremely warm and friendly meeting". Mr Cook avoided potentially thorny issues. He "regretted the arrangements" for elections next May, which are seen as less democratic than the elections of 1995, but he also praised Mr Tung's declared commitment to work towards "the goal of universal suffrage". He avoided endorsing the critical tone of the Hong Kong Democrats ~ the largest party in 1995, who are now, in effect, excluded from the political process.

the "special ties between Hong Kong and Britain", Mr Tung endorsed Labour's idea that Hong Kong can now be "a bridge, not an obstacle" between Britain and China: "The baggage of history has been shed. It's a wonderful opportunity for Britain and China to have a new relationship."

But the affable Mr Thing - a leading Hong Kong businessman before he was chosen as Chief Executive of the territory with Peking's blessing - emphasised that

Mr Cook and Mr Tung both talked of Hong Kong would allow no meddling in sensitive political matters. "Hong Kong should not be permitted to be used as a base to destabilise China," he said.

After his meeting with Mr Cook, Mr Tung taiked to The Independent of "the tremendous burden of history" that he felt as the first Chief Executive of Hong Kong. He insisted that the official mantra about Hong Koog and China - "one country, two systems" - applied not just to Hong Kong's capitalism, but to the "economic, political

and social system". The separation must be "a fence with no holes". He refused to be drawn on the long-term convergence of the two systems and the crucial issue of whether Hong Kong's politics will eventually become closer to those of China today, or whether China's own Communist

regime will soften as the years go by. Mr Tung said the human-rights situation in China is not as bad as it is portrayed. "In China, people have a lot of rights. They're just differently expressed."

Cook puts trade first on Commonwealth agenda

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday described the 50-nation Commonwealth as a great trading network in a speech delivered in advance of his first Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting tomorrow in Edinburgh.

Using phraseology that would not have shamed a Thatcherite free-marketeer. Mr Cook extolled the association - of which, he said, Britain is now merely an important member rather than a leader as a means of opening access to markets and promoting business links, especially between the developed and the less develoned worlds.

He added, however, that free trade should also be fair and that globalisation should not necessarily cause the destruction of "traditional structures of social protection". "Core labour standards" would also need to be enforced.

The strength of the Commonwealth in comparison to such international organisations as the OECD (Organ-Co-operation and Development) or the G8 group of leading industrial powers, he said, was that it brought together developed and less developed countries in conditions of relative equality. Britain wanted to boost investment in less developed countries and make further progress on debt relief

Mr Cook dismissed as "facile dichotomy" Britain's role in the Commonwealth and its membership of the European Union.

for poor countries.

Just as the French and Germans vigorously pursued their economic interests outside Europe, so Great Britain was fully entitled to exploit the "rich asset" of Commonwealth

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Mr Cook was keen to dispel any lingering shadows from his and the Queen's trip to the Commonwealth's most populous member, India. He repeated his denial that he had many any statements or comments on the controversial question of Kashmir.

As well as economics, the Heads of Government meeting will discuss the environment, and especially questions of access to fresh water and the consequences of the tropical forest fires that have been raging in South East Asia.

Questions of enlargement and democracy will be addressed privately; this is a code for the probable re-admission to the Commonwealth of Fiji the continuing suspension of Nigeria and the scrutiny of political conditions in the West African states of Sierra Leone and Gambia.

— David Walker



Six compact discs displayed by German police at a press conference in Kiel yesterday. They were among more than 100,000 right-wing CDs seized when police investigated 26 houses in the states of Schleswig Holstein and Harnburg

Albanians mourn as first bodies are recovered from rammed refugee ship

More than six months after the sinking of a rickety ship packed with Albanian civilians trying to cross the Adriatic and reach Italy, several dozen corpses were at last recovered from the wreckage yesterday following a much-delayed salvage operation by the Italian authorities.

"Small earthquake off Russia, US government's ego hurt,"

might be the better description for events after 16 August when

the US State and Defence De-

partments thought they had

spotted an underground nu-

clear test in Novaya Zemlya,

Comprehensive Test Ban

Treaty, which the United States

Such a test would violate the

Russia.

The bodies, some very badly decomposed after months under water, were brought out of the hulk of the Kater I Rades and carried off to a morgue in the Italian port of Brindisi. Relatives of the dead stood morosely on the barbour with flowers for their loved ones. in the violent revolution that

The exact number of the dead was not yet clear yesterday evening, but Albanian estimates of around 80 bodies appeared to be roughly accurate.

The sinking of the Kater Rades on 28 March was one of the most shocking episodes

shook Albania last spring. The boat was rammed by an Italian navy vessel patrolling the Adriatic in an effort to stem the tide of Albanian refugees. Arguments are still raging whether the action was deliberate or a tragic accident, and a full-scale

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The corpses will be transported to Viora, in Albaria, for full funeral services once the identification process is complete. Some bodies are so badly deformed that DNA testing may be necessary to confirm

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is still debating whether to Russia signed the treaty in September 1996, having used Novaya Zemlya to carry out

tests from 1964 to 1990. Hence the US administration was quick to hint that it thought Russia had broken the agreement - an empty gcsture, since signing a broken agreement has no use.

The 16 August rumblings were described as having "explosive characteristics" by the two departments.

Even in September, the US government was calling it "unresolved" and "lending itself to alternative interpretations".

mologists at Columbia University, New York, who have analysed the data and found that it was an earthquake and definitely not a bomb. Apart from anything else, the scientists note: "the event

took place tens of kilometres offshore, in an area where water depths are around 400 metres. Nuclear explosive testing is not credible in such an environment unless there is other evidence". And the US administration has none.

The scientists hope their work will lead to the CTBT being ratified - rather than hawks in the US Senate using the erroneous story to push for continued use of underground nuclear testing.

to show what can go wrong," Defence departments have not

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Nobody doubts the virtues of harnessing solar power. But the technology and design was ugly and clunky. What we see here, from British designers, is visionary and exciting. Nonie Niesewand feels the heat of the sun

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Caral Cally.

Ter world's largest solar-pow-ered canopy - as big as two hockey fields - will be revealed in Yorkshire at the new Earth Centre, opening in summer 1998.

A British engineer, Tom Barker, hit on the notion of sun-shades powered by solar energy in a competition to design harbour gardens in Osaka, Japan. More than just a bright idea, it proves that solar panels are getting flexible and can be used on fabric.

Another world first, the world's chicest three-storeyed condominiums track the sun to store it for household use in a design by the British designer Ross Lovegrove. It will cost no more than a motorboat.

There are still only five homeholds in Britain that solely use solar energy to power their houses. One in Nottingham and one in Oxford, both owned by architects, and the other three, terraced houses completed this summer by Greenpeace at Silvertown in London's Docklands.

So all this designer energy which shows the sun hasn't set on British ingenuity is good

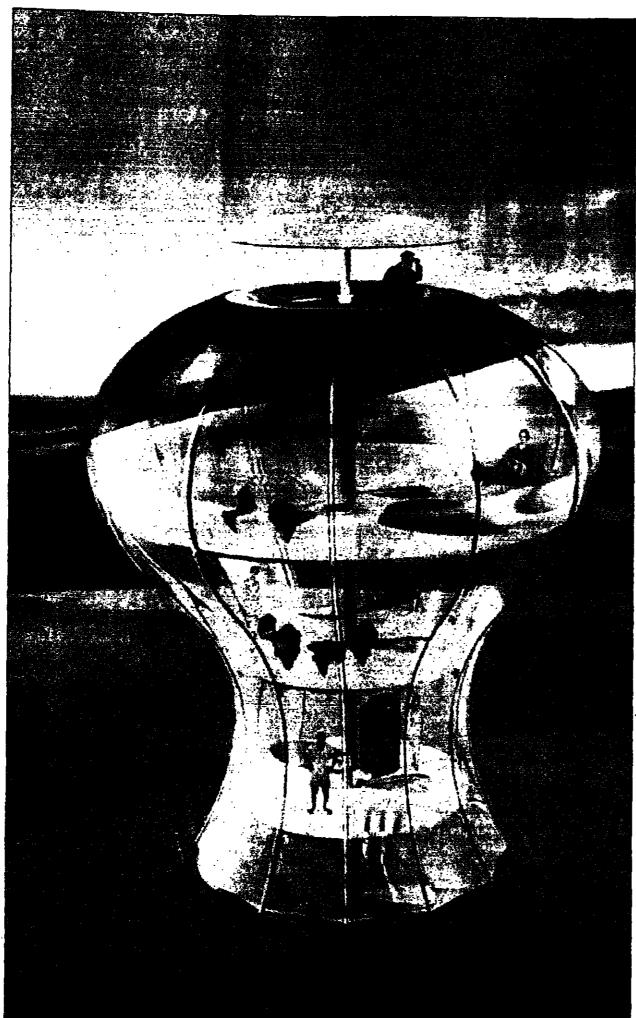
World oil consumption levels are up to the peak late Seventies all-time highs. That was the last time designers learnt to harness the sun, in photovoltaic panels on the roof to stom the sun and convert it into electricity or through solar radiation, warm the water.

One of the disheartening things about solar energy used to be that it was technologically clunky and complicated. You had to buy an array of gigantic solar panels that glinted on the roof. They had to be angled just so to catch the sun. Solar houses always look like Swiss chalets with high pitched Aline roofs and deep overhangs and who wants to live in a Berni lnn? Or else you had Heath Robinson wires and solampanels stuck on telegraph poles to try to power the telephone from solar energy. No

The solar race between the big companies is just begin-

BP in Britain, which has always kept its 'Solar Power Division' as evidence that it sees the energy issue as wider than oil consumption, is now taking a big interest. John Brown, its Chief Executive, says that he wants BP solar to move from an annual turnover of about figm to, within 10 years,

Brown says that he is confident they can make solar costs competitive across the planet in a decade. What he needs is the UK government support to sponsor solar energy consumption with upfront capital and longer market entry mechanisms to encourage more users. The United States government has encouraged this with interest-free loans, reversible metering and spending a lot on solar energy on their own buildings.



Ross Lovegrove's three-storey house of the future

PVC, light-driven and filled with ergon gas: meet your future home

Alternative living in the next century in a capsule like this could make you selfsufficient. A friendly little pod like a lightbulb, it is made of PVC, and filled with ergon gas which chills out by day and warms up by night. Lidded with a rotating photovoltaic panel that tracks the sun. it absorbs in silica wafers the maximum radiated heat from the sun to transfer it via a simple electronic current into battery storage below ground.

An aluminium mast roots the solar seed to the water supply - there is rainwater collection as well - and carries plumbing and cabling from the sunlight storage below ground to serve the three floors. The rooftop visor vents the place

the Earth that's the most efficient shape niture manufacturers. to maximise sunlight," says Ross Lovegrove, the man who came up with this remarkable vision.

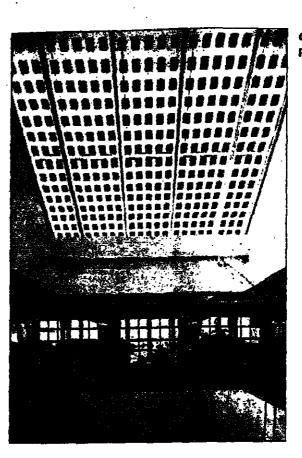
He knows that the PVC walls aren't considered environmentally friendly but Kevlar and F board means that the structure will last a long time and that it will be more user-friendly than fossil fuel driven dinosaurs.

Mazda and Olympus, Apple and Sony, Peugeot and Airbus Industries and Ital- you in the near future.

"It's spherical because we learn from ian kitchen, bathroom, lighting and fur-

But the business of persuading manufacturers that mind-bending designs are do-able is not easy. He carries a Tote bag full of designer things with him to meetings - to show that his chair can have the mixture of aluminium, carbon fibre, a flexible part where the rigid back meets the scat, he shakes a ski boot manufactured in injection moulded plastic at

When he took the glittery red car He's working on the project now with bumper light material and turned it into the Italian bathroom manufacturer, the toughest vacuum flask, called "Alfie", Guzzini Teuco. Lovegrove works for it became a bestseller. So if his track record is anything to go by this product Herman Miller USA, Japan Airlines, will be in clusters on site somewhere near



Greenpeace's solarpanel-powered offices

Moving alternative energy into the mainstream: Greenpeace puts its case

In Greenpeace's solar- the Peabody Trust. panelled offices, minds are of course much turned to sustainable energy and what Britain is not yet

They will tell you that in Germany if you install solar-powered panels and manage to put back into the grid any excess energy, you get back Sp for every unit

you save. That sort of incentive is what Greenpeace wants to they know what they know lands in conjunction with 2010."

It cost around £6,000

panels and as things stand they save around £60 annually on the fuel bill. The payback period works out at 100 years.

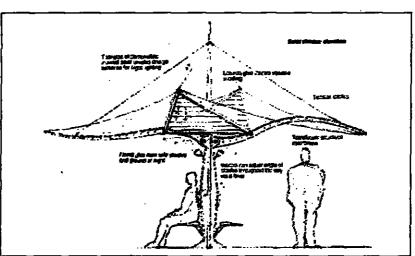
Even so, Marcus Rand, the Solar Challenge, is bullish about the prospects for solar energy. He knows that it is the

only future which is left to see, especially now that us. "By redirecting £17m which is currently spent on about the three terraced oil, coal and gas industries houses they built at Silver- each year. Britain could town in London's Dock- have 50,000 solar homes by

In the meantime. Britons will be able to get per house to install the inspiration from a source other than Greenpeace. The Earth Centre, which opens in Yorkshire next summer, is one of the first projects to receive lottery funds. It will have hands-on Greenpeace director on exhibitions for Green scientists and installations and studio tours to demonstrate the recovery of the Earth in the 21st century if solar power is more widely used. There will be prototypes of Millennium cities and a project called Waterworks, which will show you how to

grow your own food chain

A place in the sun - and in every other weather condition



Tom Barker's solar-panelled sunshades: creating enough energy to provide a cool or warm environment, and to drive lights by night

In an international competition to landscape a narrow harbour strip in Osaka, Japan, Tom Barker designed solar-panelled sunshades. About five metres across with a series of solar panels like triangles on each shade, they can store enough energy to warm the shelter in winter, drive lights by night, and nower in summer. Then he de-

signed a teahouse which sits over the canal with ventilation systems and underground tubes that draw in air from inlets some 30 metres away to either heat or cool it. A wind turbine on the top ventilates the teahouse.

His "House of the Future", proposed for Wheel on the Thames (if it Wandsworth with the ar- ever gets off the ground) a fan by day to cool it down chitects Richard Rogers with BP solar panels on the

ter-powered lift, solar panels and wind turbine, to make it the low-energy building of the next century. Reversing the overheated glass in midsummer syndrome, he plans to cool down the glass capsules for 16 people spinning around the Millennium Ferris Partnership, will have a wa- roof to drive the fans inside.

Necessity, the mother of British modernism

An exhibition at the Fine Arts Society in London, 'Austerity to Affluence ... British Art & Design 1945-62', proves not only that Britain could make it (the title of an exhibition at Heals in 1946) but that British designers were ahead of

There's more to modernism than being designer smart about shape. As the furniture designer Robin Day explains, in the foreword to the exhi-

the modernists

elsewhere.

item for the future): "We naïvely felt that modern townplanning and enlightened design of buildings and products would transform the environment and enhance the lives of steel rods for construction or the people."

Not so naively, as history shows. All over Britain, sitting comfortably in their Parker Knoll or Ercol chairs, with an amoeba-shaped coffee-table and its Formica top, Venetian blinds and Axminster carpets, New Towners faced a brave their serial numbers, in the new world.

As the austerity and rationing of the war years lifted, a new style emerged in Britain. Wood was still rationed and because of the utility scheme, companies could produce steel frame, shown at the Fes-

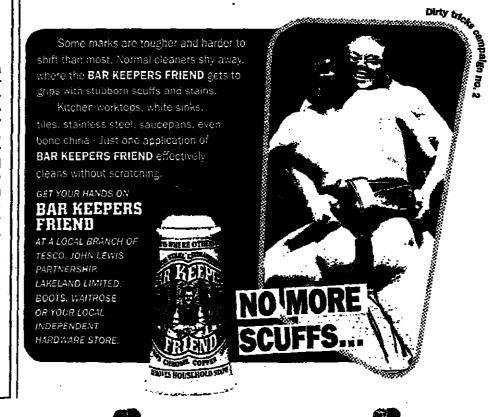
bition catalogue (a collectors' furniture only to government tival of Britain, or the boun- of showbiz prototypes; in specification. It had to be cheap, use little wood bought chair commissioned for the roof terrace of the 1952 Time in bulk, and make up for the lack of materials. So furniture Life building in New Bond slimmed down, using skeletal dining-room suite called "Allegro", made from lightweight aluminium off-cuts and plywood developed during honeycomb wood veneers the War for aircraft construcfrom the aeroplane industry. Duckcloth from RAF seats Fifties, Italian designers did was recycled as upholstery. Adhesives made for aerocommitment to produce furniture, lights and glass. planes sandwiched veneers. everyday furniture at afford-Objects were called by

able prices. Nobody undermachine-age tradition. But modernism like the British. their quirky anthropomorphic forms meant they got "Our designers were anticalled "Antelope", like the springy stacking chair by lieves. After the Second World War, modernism in Ernest Race, with its painted Italy became largely a matter

cy "Kangaroo", his rocking- Denmark it was one-offs or small batch production, beautifully crafted by cabinet workers; while Americans' Street. He designed a slender modernism became powerdress office furniture by Eames and Frank Lloyd Wright, rather than everyday household items. Only Finland tion. Post-war and into the stuck to the industrial agenda with a social conscience by not have the same drive and mass-producing Alvar Aalto

The cut-off date for this exhibition is 1962, when pop stood the concept behind came in, and austerity changed to affluence. 'Austerity to Affluence ... British élitist", Geoff Rayner be- An & Design 1945-62' nuns 20 October-14 November

Nonie Niesewand



Hello Ken, welcome back to **County Hall**

Turn again Livingstone! It was II years since he had set foot in this room - his office when he was London's big cheese. lanie Laurence took him back and found him maturing nicely.

After 15 minutes' wait I'm beginning to fret that Ken Livingstone is not going to show for lunch. "I haven't set foot in that building since a foreign, alien power took over," he's told me earlier on the phone. One thing's for sure, if he's had a change of heart he won't call on my mobile to let me know. "I won't use them, can't stand them," he says abruptly when I try to give him the number. Alien powers, mobile phones. That's Ken. If he doesn't like something he's never been shy about letting us know.

Thankfully, he arrives, breathless and apologetic. There was never any chance of his not coming because there's a Chinese lunch on offer, And he would never miss that.

The restaurant is in what used to be a suite of room adjacent to his own when he was leader of the GLC. Ken hasn't set foot there for 11 years. They used to produce radical policies for the people; now they offer a splendid chicken in lemon sauce and are bedecked with chandeliers and red paper lanterns. From the window, a perfect view of Ken's current office, minutes from the House of Commons, But whereas during Ken's time politicians would look over to County Hall and see a large banner taunting them with London's latest unemployment figures, that's now been replaced by one advertising the aquarium.

ago. In 1986 when the GLC was

public loved to hate. He attracted hysterical tabloid headlines whenever he spoke.

To the fury of Michael Foot he issued a personal invitation to Sinn Fein leaders. Grants were awarded to groups such as the Lesbian Left. In such a flurry of antipathy his Fares Fair public transport policy is often forgotten. "I loved it," he recalls. "We were just ahead of our time. Is any one of those things I did not now mainstream politics?"

He looks around his old office - a wood panelled room with dangling bare light fittings. mental? "I only get sentimental about people, not buildings," he replies swiftly.

some residents he was still Red Ken who couldn't guarantee their bins were emptied. Ten years on and he's reinvented himself. He's become Cuddly Ken. A spot of panto, a cheese advert, innumerable radio and chat show appearances, "It was a deliberate strategy. The best way to reach people is to be on Jimmy Young." Cuddly though is doubtless not the view of him in Millbank. No matter how fresh-faced assistants brief him, he will keep doing annoying things like banging on about raising taxes. He mentioned it at least five times to me. Tve always been cuddly," he says, patently not displeased by his change in fortune. "It wasn't my fault that the media depicted me as some Mandelsonian monster. Although I was more hated than he's ever been."

Mandelson to a place on the NEC last month all sorts of unlikely people have been skulking up to Ken offering their congratulations. So what does Ken think of Mandelson? "He's It all seems so terribly long very witty and very clever." How restrained. No, actually.

Since Livingstone beat



Well a dollop more like. It was an ecstatic-looking Ken caught on camera when the NEC result was announced, "Yes, the party official had just come over and said, You've pissed all over him." He guffaws. Ken is a supreme mischief-maker. He says he views politics as a game. Although it's often hard to gauge how serious the intent is behind the words.

live. In a gruesome dark green shiny suite he looks like one of those door-to-door blokes who will do you a good deal on tea towels. Yet many women are rather attracted to Ken. In fact among my female friends, especially since he shaved off his moustache, he's got something of a following. What they would like to do to you is unprintable, I tease him. "No, print it, print it," he says, his already ruddy cheeks reddening with pleasure.

His voice is even more nasal

ferred the company of women. "I don't like pubs, I don't like smoking and I don't like sport so it's a bad start. And when you're with a group of men socially you tend to have a series of statements. Before someone is finished, somebody else is making another. All these men are competing to take the conversation into the area they want to go. So you come away thinking nobody listens. It's exhausting because it's like we're all strutting around with

our feathers erect." Politics was never part of his game plan. His childhood ambition was to be an astronaut. Lambeth not being the obvious recruiting centre for Apollo missions, instead he went to an all-boys school in Tulse Hill. Even then his school reports gave some indication of what was to come. "They always said that I was disruptive or mixing with the wrong crowd. And I knew was wrong I wouldn't give in. I challenged them.'

After school he worked as a lab technician and then trained as a teacher. Elected to Lambeth Council he had by then "fallen in love" with politics. As a child money was tight so both his parents had day and evening jobs. "We never wanted for anything but it was a struggle." He was particularly close to his mother who died aged 82 in August this year.
"We recognised that she was fading away, then one night in the hospital she asked for a sherry and just passed away in her sleep." His dad died of a heart attack when he was 56. "No man ever lives long in my

family," he announces breezily. Now 52, does he worry about the passage of time? "I swim three times a week," is all

Too personal and the shutters come down, like a true does he so love newts? "It was

children. Married at 28 and subsequently divorced eight years later he has been living with his partner Kate Allen, who works at the Refugee Council, for 16

Take our conversation about

years. I think he would be rather a sweet dad. Has he ever regretted not having children? "My ex-wife had a miscarriage a year before we split up so it wasn't a decision not to have them." That must have been horrible, I say. "Mmm," he replies in definitively male fashion before pursuing a sociological analysis of the drawbacks of the contemporary nuclear family in the West. Yes but what if Kate had wanted them? "If she had really want-

> them," he says. He would really much prefer to tell me how much he loves his garden. Home to the most famous newts in Britain. Why

ed them then we'd have had

enjoys going to the cinema. What was the last film he saw? 'Oh I can't remember."

Ken is most in his element discussing figures. So many billion pounds for this could mean so many million for that and then if that billion was subtracted by that million. Glazing over, I really have to tell him, enough already. He's talking to a woman who still hasn't mastered percentages on a calculator. Ken, you see, actually yearns to be Chancellor of the Exchequer. Surely he would hate to be a minister? He would certainly have to toe the party line then. "If you accept the job you're stuck with that." Coming as it does not on the heels of his assessment of the role of the Cabinet it seems unlikely he could. "It's now reduced to little more than a sounding board."

"But I like Blair ~ I never could stand Kinnock. You can

this,' and he doesn't pound the table or scream abuse. With Kinnock it was almost physical. I often used to think that he might lean over and headbut

you. He was appalling." He may not become a minister but he's making a very public bid to become the new Mayor of London. Free entry to museums and art galleries, more bus lanes, a job creation scheme - he's already been pitching hard. "They'll probably have some special ciarse that men born in June 1945 are barred from standing," he says sardonically. As we leave we bump into a town crier who enthusiastically pledges his support. Ken excuses himself. These days be's always in a rush. "It was easier when I was reviled and marginalised - at least I knew what I was doing," he says. He doesn't mean it. Ken knows he's popular and he's enjoying every minute.

Gilbert L

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I deal with my pain but I can't ignore it - why don't friends see that?



DILEMMAS

Christine's had back pain for 10 years, and has tried everything from conventional to alternative medicine, but her life's become very restricted. She does her best to cope bravely, but though some friends are sympathetic, she hears that others think she's malingering. How can she get more understanding?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

I always remember when I was suffering over the death of my father and would try to describe how miserable I felt to friends.) would say that the night before I had cried all the time, that I could hardly operate, that I spent hours banging the walls and shouting, and yet, because I told them this in a matter-offact voice when I wasn't particularly upset, I had had the sense that they thought I was like a fisherman describing the one that had got away. "Sure she's miserable," I felt they were muttering, cynically. "She seems pretty OK now. It's just a plea for sympathy."

And it's true that unless you are actually screaming in emotional or physical agony bearing a doctor's certificate signed by the Lord Mayor, the Pope and the Queen, some people can't quite get it into their heads just how hellish life can be for people in pain.

Why is this? One is that if you're doing your best to be brave, a lot of people tend to take you at face value. If Christine only appears at social dos stuffed with Nurofen with a grin on her face. they feel this must be possible all the time. Some friends can also be very frightened of pain of any kind.

I once became very upset when in hospital because one of my best friends refused to visit or ring. She simply sent one postcard from abroad saying what a great time she was having. It was only when I realised that it was due to her huge fear of illness, and her tremendous dependence on the as a strong character, that I understood that she was probably more deserving of sympathy than myself and shouldn't be struck

from my address book.

The other reason some of Christine's friends may be unsympathetic is because back pain is rather like depression. Everyone has a twinge now and again and gets through it; everyone is low now and again and copes with it. When they hear the words "back pain" they automatically think it is something like the same as the pain they suffer and naturally are unsympathetic. They simply haven't got the imagination to realise that acute back pain is excruciating and can make you feel positively sick with agony.

And anyway, do we ourselves always believe our friends? Just think of how difficult it is for people who say they've been sexually abused to get themselves heard, let alone believed; and certainly friends of mine have declared themselves supremely happy and yet I have been certain that I see a pain in the back of their eyes that belies their verdict.

What can Christine do? She may find that discovering another name for her back pain would get her more sympathy. There are all kinds of back pain, and she could declare that her doctor says she is suffering from "ankylosing spondylitis" "sciatica", "osteoarthritis", "ruptured disc", or even "spinal-cord tumour" - or she could invent some weird piece of Greek or Latin gobbledegook to baffle her friends into believing that what she suffers

from is truly serious. Or she could, rather than put a brave face on it, collapse a couple of times in front of her friends, unable, say, to cross the road. Showing that she suffers could get far more understanding than just telling.

WHAT READERS SAY

Learn to like the new person you have become

I sympathise very much with Christine's hurt, physical and emotional, as I too suffer chronic pain, from RSI.

Chronic pain changes the personality, and this can be the hardest thing about it. Often, one doesn't recognise the person reflected back by the people one interacts with. Frankly, I think Christine's former friends don't like her any more. She is not the same person that they used to have fun with. Her challenge is to accept this, without liking herself any the less. In time, she can get to know and love her new self, and find friends who share the more limited pleasures that she is still capable of.

Joy may come less easily into her life, but compassion and serenity may grow to take its place. Caroline Macafee Aberdeen

Sometimes it is better to get rid of disbelieving friends

I sympathise absolutely with Christine. The essential thing is "to be believed". I speak from my own experience of a chronic chest condition. What, I imagine, Christine would like to hear is, "Yes, I do believe you," or words to that effect, and then the question, "How is it?"

If her friends appear not to believe her and they fail to make a genuine inquiry, she may well be better off without them. One way would be to write a letter stating, objectively, that her back pain truly is a problem and that she is doing all that she can about it even if "resting it", if that is what is needed, may not seem a very positive thing. The letter could well go on to say that if she is not in touch for the time being she hopes. or trusts, that they understand.

This lack of belief on the part of some friends could perhaps be a factor in her back pain. One does not want "advice", but simply to be understood. If the friends simply refuse to understand she might well be better to end gently the contact. I have done this myself with two

disbelievers. After a while, not having disbelieving "friends" in mind is a relief. Michael Guyer

Get support from others who face the same problem

I am bedridden with ME and for the first couple of years had severe difficulties with people not taking my illness seriously. There are no easy answers. You can try educating your friends, using leaflets or books about chronic pain, but ultimately it is up to them whether they face up to your situation. Whatever people think or say about you, it is important to hang on to your belief in yourself. I have found it invaluable to be in contact with others in a similar position, partly because I don't have to keep explaining or defending myself. Perhaps you might benefit from this as well? Zoe Williams Farringdon, Oxon

You can still keep in touch without going out

I have had the same problem for the last two years and I have watched friends slowly disappear. I have managed to hold on to my closest friends by inviting them on a regular basis to my home for drinks. If you fully explain the problems, not simply "back pain" but "spinal dam-

age", people are more sympathetic. The real answer I have found is to refocus your life so that friends are not so important. I have done this by, for example, subscribing to magazines which are relevant to me. Every day brings a new interest which helps to alleviate the problem. I read two broadsheets in the morning and catch up on the other magazines and papers in the afternoon. I have found that by doing this my brain is kept very busy and active and when friends do come I have a lot to discuss and am no longer hurt by the people who have dropped me from their circuit and view. ME Cole

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Everything's fine, and my parents really like him, but for some reason his mother and stepfather refuse to meet me. I can think of no reason. I anything. I'm just an ordinary student, though I come from a working-class background, unlike John. I have been barred from Christmases and weddings, and have met John's mother only once, when she could hardly bear to shake my hand. John won't really say why they won't meet me, and I am starting to hate them, particularly as I know

I have been going out with the rest of the family, his John for two years now. brothers and sisters, and they are all extremely friendly. Why is she like this, and what can I do?

don't have a police record, or Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora Send personal experiences or comments to me at the Features Department, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL (fax 0171-293 2182) by Tuesday morning.

If you have any dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.



Christopher Lee will be at Harrods on Saturday.

Christopher Lee will be signing copies of his autobiography

Tall, Dark and Gruesome

in the Book Department, Second Floor, on Saturday 25th October 1997 at 12 noon. Published by Gollancz, price £15.99.

If you are unable to attend please telephone on 0181 479 5100 to reserve your signed copy.

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The Right Rev Robin Woods Robert Wilmer Woods, priest: born Lausanne. Switzerland IS February 1914: ordained deacon 1938, priest 1939; Chaplain to the Forces 1942-46 (despatches 1944); Vicar of South Wigston, Leicester 1946-51; Archdeacon of Singapore 1951-58; Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rector of Tankersley 1958-62; Dean of Windsor 1962-70; Domestic Chaplain to the Queen 1962-70: Register of the Most Bole Order of the Garter 1962-70; Secretary, Anglican/ Methodist Commission for Unity 1965-74; Bishop of Worcester 1970-81; KCVO 1971; Prelate of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George 1971-89; Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Gloucester 1982-97; KCMG 1989; married 1942 Henrietta Wilson (two sons, three daughters); died Tirley,

Robin Woods's career as an Anglican church leader embodied the crisis for the churches in the late 20th century, He gave energetic and warmhearted service in a number of poms as a Secretary of the Student Christian Movement, a Chaplain in the 8th Army in Italy, an industrial vicar, Archdeacon of Singapore, Archdeacon of Sheffield, Dean of Windsor and, finally, as Bishop of Worcester. He was efficient, hard-working, able to preach a thoughtful sermon, with a deep pastoral concern for individuals and notable personal kindness.

Gloucestershire 20 October

His vision of a church much more in touch with the developing life of Britain, united with other Christian bodies and prepared to make the changes essential to serve industry and the citiewith which he was especially in touch, was imaginative and impressive. He understood the alienation between large

sections of English life and the - Lang to pay his first visit to establishment, both financial and ecclesiastical. His courageous and ingenious foundation of St George's House at Windsor for the discussion of the issues at the heart of the British national crisis and, incidentally, for the retraining of the eler-

gy, was the crown of his work, He felt a deep personal devotion to members of the Royal Family. At the same time he sported a "county" style and invited the nickname his critics gave him of "Royal Robin", appearing at times to caricature himself. He had shot with more members of the House of Lords than any other bishop. He was widely respected among the free churches. None the less his plans were trustrated. Woods came from a Quak-

er background, but his father and uncle both became bishops, The Gurneys, Buxtons and Barclays of Norfolk, and through his marriage the Wilsons of Kendal and the Peases of Darlington, gave him a confidence-inspiring inheritance. His own childhood was vicarage life with holidays in Switzerland, large houses in East Anglia and many cousins and contacts with the City. Cromer and Cambridge evangelicals. His father was a friend of

William Temple and John R.

Mott, the American ecumenical leader. One of his brothers became Primate of the Australian Church and another an archdeacon in New Zealand. He used to describe how the family Christmas Day began with the children singing "Christians Awake" outside their parents' bedroom, and ended with The Messiah - they were remarkably musical. Robin and his sister showed their missionary zeal for broadening the minds of clergymen by calling at Lambeth and managing to take the isolated

Archbishop Cosmo Gordon

the hallet,

After Cambridge and the SCM, his experience with the 8th Army in the Italian campaign revealed "the minefields of misunderstanding to be lifted - largely relating to the Church". He shared the horrors - a company HQ blown up in a booby-trapped farmhouse

with all 24 killed. When the war

was over he visited some of the parents. He founded two Chanlain Centres at Assisi and Lignano, forerunners of St George's House. With his father, then Bishop of Liehfield, who flew out for an episcopal visit, he attended General, later Field Marshal, Templar in hospital, who had an injured back after a grand piano on the truck in front of his staff car had been blown up by a mine. The General received the laying on of hands and then told the Woodses that he was hit not only by the piano, but by buckets of ice and bottles of champagne, "all parts of the

After demobilisation he moved to the industrial parish of South Wieston, Leicester, After four years he went to Singapore as Archdeacon and his Barelay background found its metier in the reorganisation of schools and clergy training. His ecumenical sympathies and intelligent energy made him excellent at the cathedral. He did much to befriend the often isolated British commercial families, and achieved considcrable rapport, though he admitted to being shaken by being offered gin and tonic in lieu of early morning tea at their homes at 6am. But the time was over for expatriate leadership, and Woods's most enduring work was the encouragement of the multiracial congregation

at St Andrew's Cathedral. Woods gave 23 years as Archdeacon of Sheffield, Denn of Windsor and Bishop of Worcester, Whereas Archbishop Fisher believed that the Church of England was in good heart. Woods was convinced that there were urgent probtems; to his great credit and occasional unpopularity he devoted himself to addressing them: the alienation of the industrial areas, the blight of unemployment, the Anglican' Methodist split and the decline

clergy. In Sheffield he was a shrewd supporter of Bishop Leslie Hunter's strategy of Industrial Mission, partly inspired by the French primes conners, partly by Ted Wickham - himself a protege of Robin's father. It was a tragedy about which Robin Woods was undiplomatically blunt when, in later years, the closed mind of a sick and badly chosen successor of Bishon Hunter led to the unjust sacking of two of the Industrial Missioners and the collapse of the

At Windsor Woods found-Grenadiers' normal equipment", ed St George's House to be a centre for Christian thinking not least about social divisions. He took advice from the Church of Scotland at Dunblane, European churches at Taize, Bossey and Bad Boll, and enthused the Knights of the Garter, Prince Philip and many others, lay and ordained. He was determined and ingenious in raising large sums of money. Still there were critics. Was Windsor Castle too élitist a site for a church itself suffering from an over-privileged image? Was it appropriate for retraining in intelligent public service?

> A lay conference and training centre for the Church of England required much greater independence than the royal ecclesiastical and court traditions, where worship was stiff and paternalistic, antipathetic to radical and experimental methods of approach to the crisis of the Church. Archhishop Fisher and Bishop

Graham Leonard were able to defeat Woods's efforts as Anglican Secretary of the Anelican Methodist Scheme. and it was difficult to appeal over the heads of the establishment from Windsor, of all places, to common sense in the parishes.

At Worcester and in the House of Lords Woods worked in numbers and the inadequahard. Archbishop Ramsey comcy of training of the Anglican mented, "I did not know that Robin had ability as well as enthusiasm." He gave time to the needs of the unemployed, defended the consensual politics of consulting trades unions and was, no doubt, one of those referred to by Francis Pym when he remarked, "Clergymen do not exist to make life comfortable for us." Like many of the Anglican hishops, Woods was out of favour during the Thatcher regime.

In retirement he worked for the Student Christian Movement, the Order of St Michael and St George (he published a book of prayers for ambassadors short of chaplains), and in 1986 published Robin Woods: an autobiography informative about the inside life of the Church, entertainingly at times "the Queen and I" in style, and strikingly kind about those individuals who had defeated his plans.

His pride in the decision of a daughter and a niece to seek ordination as Anglican priests is a moving testimony to the Woods family tradition of Christian service in a developing church in a changing society. Robin's wife, Henrietta, and his family were remarkably close in a home where there was always music and painting and conversation, always with a sense of personal trust in the background. Robin and Henrictta were perfectly matched and her support was unfailing and unobtrusive: their generous hospitality in many posts was always warm and unstuffy. Alan Webster



'Royal Robin' Woods, left, the new Bishop of Worcester, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Michael Ramsey, in 1971 Photograph: Hulton Getty

Sir Gilbert Longden



Gifbert James Morley Longden, politician: born Castle Heath, Co Durham 6 April 1902; MBE 1944; MP (Conservative) for Southst Hertfordshire 1950-74; UK Representative to Council of Europe 1953-54; Kt 1972; died 16 October 1997.

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incidents which, by themselves, are judged irrelevant, but in accumulation become important. The Conservative government led by Harold Macmillan - to all intents and purposes it was still his government when Alec Douglas-Home led it for a year in 1963/64 - was beset by innumerable small problems, most of which are well known. Macmillan, despite his cynicism. was a man particularly vulnerable to rhetorical attack. As his troubles increased, Macmillan was burt by three particular remarks addressed to him in the House of Commons, one by an opponent and two by supposed

Jeremy Thorpe remarked of the relationship between Macmillan and R.A. Butler that

invariably, an accumulation of ourable friend at Heathrow all about him were losing were as wide as his thinking was (Military Division). Airport, and grasped him warmly by the throat." Nigel Birch, one of the three Treasury ministers who had resigned from Macmillan's government, recited to the House of Commons Robert Browning's memorable lines from "The Lost Leader": "Let him never come back to us, / There will be doubt, hesitation and shame, / Small praise on our part, / Never glad confident morning again!"

These attacks on Macmillan are well remembered. Less well remembered is Gilbert Longden's contribution after Macmillan had dismissed seven members of his Cabinet. Longden, with that dry irony of which he was a master. said that he would like to con-

of the pneumatic rubber tyre, 1921;

theirs". Thorpe had an evident interest in attacking Macmillan and Birch had a particularly personal interest in doing the leader of the Party down. Longden was a backbencher, who had declined office on at least two occasions and therefore could be considered by the House to be speaking in a disinterested fashion. So, his attack on Macmillan was all the more wounding.

Gilbert Longden was, throughout his political life, both unassuming and intellectually certain. Born in County Durham, he was educated at Haileybury, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he read Law, He qualified as a solicitor in 1924. He worked for

broad. He left India in 1936 and travelled widely, before spending a year studying at the Sorbonne in Paris.

On his return to England around the time of Neville Chamberlain's disastrous conversation with Adolf Hitler in 1938, sensing that war with Germany was approaching he enrolled in the Army Officers' Emergency Reserve. In 1940 he became an officer in the Durham Light Infantry, and in 1941 he was posted to the Far East. Though he was still a comparatively young man, his experience of foreign travel, and his knowledge of foreign parts served the Army well, but he was essentially an administrator rather than a fighting soldier. When he was demobilised

single reason. There is, almost theman met his Right Hon- having "kept his head while demonstrated that his interests and was appointed MBE his novel Sybil or The Two Na- one of the founders of the

Even before the Second World War, Longden had shown a serious interest in polities. Having been selected as parliamentary candidate for Morpeth in 1938, he failed to secure that seat in the House of Commons in the election of 1945. However, as the Conservative electoral recovery began, he won a seat for South West Herts in 1950.

By this time he had established himself as a serious Conservative thinker and writer. His book. A Conservative Philosophy (1947) provided the foundation for an unlikely alliance - including Edward Heath, Enoch Powell and Angus Maude - which formed the One Nation Group, based on the thinking first annunci-

essence of this thinking was to be ameliorative in domestic policy and aggressive in foreign

policy. However, Longden was never afraid to change his mind. Thus, having espoused the cause of the Arab nations for years, after the founding of the

state of Israel in 1948, and having convinced himself that the Arab powers of the day were determined to destroy the infant state, he became an enthusiastic Zionist. At the same time, he was deeply involved in the developing post-war relationship with continental Europe, being at one time or another a member of the Council of Europe, the British Atlantic Community, the British Council and the Conservative

A government rarely falls for a "The Right Honourable Gen- gratulate the Prime Minister on ICI in India for some time, and he enjoyed the rank of Major ated by Benjamin Disraeli in Group for Europe. He was tions in the 19th century. The Great Britain-East Europe Centre, and published, in 1969. two booklets, One Europe and The Future of Europe.

But Longden was a Commonwealth man as well as a proponent of closer ties between Britain and Europe. Thus, he was a vehement opponent of apartheid, and this. as well as his forward-looking thinking about the emerging welfare state, led him to be, initially, a supporter of Macmillan. Most of his dreams were to be unfulfilled. In 1974 he retired from the House of Commons. He was almost the last of a generation the character and the vision of which was formed by war and international interests; and he is worthy of a more than honourable memory. - Patrick Cosgrave

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding amiversaries, Memorial Services, Wedding amiversaries, ing to the Gazette Editor, The Inde-pendent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Ei4 5DL, telephoned to 071-293 2011 (24-hour answering ma-chine 071-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette anments (notices, functions ming marriages, Marriages) e submitted in writing (or inusc be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Dulte of Kelinhurgh, Master, attends the Trinity House Civis Lunch at Trinity House. London EC3; sad, as Proving attends the 50th Amiversary Dimner of the Royal Institute of Navigation at Plaisterpars' Hall, London EC4, The Dulte of Rock, Governor, visits Lakefield Children and Children County The County The County cure traite of Birth, Governor, visits Lakefield College School, Ontario, Canada. The Princers Royal, opens the Commonwealth Partnership in Medicine Meeting, Edinburgh; attends a Scotland Africa 97 Reception, Edinburgh University, opens a new laboratory at the Medical Research Council Collaborative Centre Mexican Connect In Collaborative Centre, Western General In-famery, Edinburgh; attends the short instal-Missing or the Marchania Company, Michigan of Honorary Michiganship of the Merchanic Company, Merchanis' Hall, Edinburgh, visits the Non-Government Organisation Edinburgo at the Government Organisation Echibidise at the Commonwealth Centre, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh; and, as Patron, College of Occupational Therapiess, attends the Diamond Jubileo Celebrations for Occupational Therapy Education in Scotland, Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regim

Appointments

Mr Ian Penman, to be a member of the Council on Tribunals. Mr John Prophet, to be President of the Industrial Tribunals for England

Birthdays Sir Anthony Bamford, chairman

and managing director, J.C. Bamford, 52; Professor Gracme Barker, Head of the School of Archaeological Studies, Leicester University, 51; Mr Johnny Carson, television pre-senter, 72; Mr George Cohen, footballer, 58; Major Edwina Coven, HM Lieutenant, City of London, 76; Sir John Craven, chairman, Morgan Grenfell, 57; Miss Maggi Hambling, artist, 52; Lord Hunt of Tanworth, former Secretary of the Cabinet, 78; Mr Roger Jones, managing director, Woolworths, 60; Sir Archie Lamb, former diplomat, 76; Professor Sir Frank Lawton, Emeritus Professor of Operative Surgery, Liverpool University, 82; Mr Iverach McDonald, former Associate Editor, the Times, 89; Pelé, footballer, 57; Lord Remmant, banker and accountant, 67; Sir Ralph Riley, former deputy chairman, Agriculture and Food Research Council, 73; Mr Gerry Robinson, chairman, Granada, 49; Miss Anira Roddick, founder, The Body Shop, 55; Mr George Rylands, Shakespearean scholar, 95; The Earl of Shannon, former Deputy Speak-er, House of Lords, 73: Baroness Trumpington, Baroness in Waiting. 75; Baroness Young, former Minister of State, Foreign Office, 71.

Anniversaries

Births: Nicolas Edmé Restif de la Bretonne, novelist, 1734; Pierre-Athanase Larousse, lexicographer and encyclopaedist, 1817; Robert Seymour Bridges, poet, 1844; Dou-glas Robert Jardine, cricketer, 1900; Felix Bloch, physicist, 1905; Diana Dors (Diana Fluck), actress, 1931. Deaths: Marcus Junius Brutus, committed suicide 42 BC, Pierre-Jules Théophile Gautier, author, 1872; William Gilbert Grace, cricketer. 1915; John Boyd Dunlop, inventor

Zane Grey, novelist of the American West, 1939; Al Joison (Asa Yoelson), singer and actor, 1950. On this day the second Battle of Philippi was fought, 42 BC; both Royalists and Parliamentarians claimed victory at the Battle of Edgahill, 1642; the first parliament of Great Britain met, 1707; 25,000 women paraded in New York to demonstrate in favour of women's suffrage, 1915; the Unit-ed Nations General Assembly met for the first time, New York, 1946; Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to end the occupation of Germany, 1954; Western nations agreed to allow West Germany to enter Nato, 1954; George Blake, serving a 42-year sentence for espionage, escaped from Wormwood Scrubs prison 1966. Today is the Feast Day of St Al-lucio, St Elfleda or Ethelfleda, St Ignatius of Constantinople, St John of Capistrano, St Romanus of Rouen, Severinus or Seurin of Bordcaw St Severinus Boethius and St Theodores.

Lectures

National Gallery: Judy Egerton, "Hogarth (iv): Marriage à la mode".

Victoria and Albert Museum: الثلا rence Magne, "Les Ebénistes Français du XVIII siècle", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Christine Atha, "Frantcis Bacon: discovering the physical"

British Museum: Timothy Clayton. "Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797): the printed image", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Grace Robertson, "Portrait of a Decade: 1950s Picture Post", 1.10pm. King's College London, London WC2: Professor Felicity Riddy, "Domesticity and Urban Culture in Late

Medieval England", 5.30pm.

LAW REPORT: 23 OCTOBER 1997

Question of principal home to be decided objectively

The question whether a tenant who was not in physical occupation of premises had the necess intention to preserve his occupation of them as his principal or only home for the purposes of section 1(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1988 was to be decided objectively. Ujima Housing Association v Ansah

and anor: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Cazalet) 17 October 1997

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the Ujima Housing Association against the decision of Judge Hitching in the Bow County Court refusing to make a possession order in respect of a flat owned by the housing association which had been let to the respondent under an assured tenancy within the meaning of section 1 of the Housing Act 1988.

The respondent had lived in the flat with his family had sublet it at a rent of £130 Housing Act 1988 and was protection of a statutory as- were terms of that subletting

hold tenancy within the meaning of section 20 of the 1988 Act. The association served notice to quit on the respondent on the ground, inter alia. that he was in breach of his tenancy agreement by subletting. They maintained that he was no longer occupying the premises as his principal or only home and had therefore ceased to be the holder of an assured tenancy. The judge found that the respondent had at all times re-

Terence Gallivan (Devonshires) for the housing association; Mark Whalan (G.H. Gelbergs) for the

tained the intention to return

to the flat and had always

regarded it as his principal

home.

Lord Justice Roch said that the basis of the appeal was that the judge had been wrong to find that the respondent had continued to occupy the flat paying rent of £31.50 per week as his principal home within introduced a stricter test for whole of the premises on an asuntil March 1995, when he the meaning of section 1 of the the tenant who claimed the sured shorthold tenancy. There

per week on an assured short- therefore at all material times sured tenancy. Where a tenant an assured tenant.

Counsel for the respondent had relied on the decision in Lesley & Cov Cumming [1926] 2 KB 417 to establish the proposition that a subletting of the whole of the premises did not in itself destroy a tenant's statutory protection. However, still to be have an assured tena stricter approach to deciding who was within the protection of the legislation had been adopted in later cases: see Haskins v Lewis [1931] 2 KB 1. Skinner v Geary [1931] 2 KB 526, Brown v Nash and Ambrose [1948] 2 KB 247, Poland v Cadogan [1980] 3 All ER 544 and Jackson v Pekic and O'Brien (1990) 22 HLR 9.

It had been submitted for the respondent that the issue in the case was a matter of fact had accepted the respondent's evidence of his intentions and the court should not interfere with his conclusions.

was no longer in physical possession of the premises, the onus was upon him to establish that he was still occupying it as his principal home. That was to be determined not by the subjective intention or motives of the person claiming ancy, but by an objective assessment of his actions and

The judge had misdirected himself in making a finding as to the respondent's subjective intent, instead of looking at the undisputed facts and deriving from them the respondent's objective intent. If the issue of occupation as an only or principal residence were to be decided on subjective intent, inconsistent and and degree for the judge. He contradictary decisions would occur, and that would be undesirable.

> In the present case the undisputed facts were that the

which were of importance in relation to possession and occupation of the premises which, unhappily, had not been considered by the judge in his judgment. Those terms were quite inconsistent with the respondent's remaining in occupation of the flat as his principal residence.

He was financially better off than he would have been had he remained in the flat. He was neither in the flat nor entitled to occupation when the notice to quit expired. Finally he had left furniture in the flat which was necessary if the flat were to be sublet furnished, but had left no personal possessions as might have been expected if he had had the intention to return after a relatively short absence. On the facts, viewed objectively, the respondent could not have had the intention necessary to oreserve his occupation of the flat as his principal residence, nor The 1988 Act had, however, respondent had sublet the had he maintained a sufficient presence in the flat to sustain the assured tenancy.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

A reminder to ministers: all children have special needs



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARF. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Classroom teaching can never just be about a child's intellectual development. Attainment depends mightily on children's health and happiness.

But teachers are not care assistants, nurses or social workers. They should have enough on their plates stretching and testing young minds; not all of them are up to that. There will, moreover, always be a category of pupil that demands too much attention - too much, that is, for the good of the other children. The test must always be the performance of the whole class. The Government is right in its central assertion, that teaching those with "special needs" in the company of their peers can enrich classroom life. But in its latest thoughts, published yesterday, it does not perhaps recognise, as acutely as teachers and parents do, that must be strict limits to a policy of integration. There comes a point, not usually with those with physical disabilities, when the presence of certain children in the classroom is educationally

disruptive. It is the teachers and heads, in conjunction with the parents of other children, who must make the call - not education bureaucrats or government ministers. Schooling those disruptive children must continue, to be sure, but elsewhere. We will always need special provision outside ordinary schools.

Because he is blind, David Blunkett possesses deep insight into special needs education. The pun is intentional. He knows at first hand how being defined by your disability is disabling. It is not political correctness to reprove blanket categorisations such as "the deaf" or "the mentally handicapped" and object to the educational apartheid they have endured in the past. Physical and mental disability is part of life; children who lack mobility or the use of one faculty can and must share the educational opportunities of their peers. As a rule, inclusion has to be the right policy - provided schools are physically adapted, teachers are given the necessary extra training, and their numbers are boosted.

Then there are children who are emotionally disturbed. This is not necessarily a life's fate: children move in and out of conditions that impede their educational progress. The Green Paper is right to seek to cut the bureaucratic jungle that has grown up around the process of "statementing" - identifying and labelling child-ren with difficulties. But the administrative challenge is to ensure that such children can be provided for, if necessary out of the mainstream, and preferably temporarily.

The Government's inclusive vision for the schools parallels its thinking about social exclusion, and the imperative of pushing and pulling the workless into jobs. and inhabitants of run-down estates back into the social swim. But, as with social exclusion, it needs to recognise two great problems. The first is money. David Blunkett acknowledged yesterday that he is not going to get far without putting "real resources" behind these initiatives; but will he and his colleagues spell out when? Labour's commitment to Tory spending targets lasts until April 1999. Then what?

The second problem is machinery. Labour has, so far, broadly followed the Tory line on local education authorities: replace them where necessary, and generally prefer that the schools run and own show. But when it comes to providing for special educational needs, the backstop local authority has to have resources and show imagination. Children with special needs cannot be left to schools alone. The Green Paper, intriguingly, suggests that government regional offices (which currently have no educational responsibilities) might become involved. Most parents will be indifferent to who provides, as long as the specialist teaching is there. And that has to include separate schools with bodies of dedicated, specialist teachers.

For once Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of

Never mini Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, talks sense when he argues that mainstream classrooms must be protected from that (small) category of children whose behaviour problems are disruptive. They must, as a result, be found places in dedicated special schools.

Of course, that is a palliative. In the long run some broad-gauge social strategy would identify children pre-school as potentially problematic, not in order to stigmatise them, but to enable preventive action - Head-Start programmes, in other words. We now have a reasonable idea of what works if those children are not to become candidates for criminal careers before becoming the fathers and mothers of a new generation of problem children. But getting all the levers pulled at the right time poses a supreme challenge to the Government. David Blunkett's appearing alone at the launch of his Green Paper, talking airily about wider social issues, was a bad augury.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Briefer bites back

Sir: Anthony Bevins (Comment, 21 October) lays waste to government press officers with the gay abandon of Attila the Hun, calling the Government Information Service (GIS) "a

waste of time, space and cash". I am a supporter of the GIS, but not an uncritical one. It has some weaknesses. We have been addressing them.

In the last few years we have improved our recruitment procedures and sought higher standards while the impositions on staff have increased as media outlets grow by leaps and bounds.

So what are the "whinges" from press officers? Precious few. There are natural concerns about the future, not because of a jobsworth mentality but from a challenge to professionalism. Is the service to ministers good enough, how do we mesh with Alastair Campbell, (who has praised with good grace many of our efforts) are government policies understood by the media, and how can we do more within the confines of the Civil Service Code?

Hurtling over the battlefield. Tony prays in aid a Daily we refuse to leak stories, don't reply to journalists promptly, feel queasy at spin and leave at 5pm. The fundamental flaw in all this is to treat tax-payer funded information officers as an independent force, accountable to no one save the journalists searching for exclusives.

No press officer will act independently of ministerial wishes. We owe a duty of loyalty to the government of the day. Do we hold on to precious information out of vainglorious feelings of power? Rubbish. We ask ministers what they wish us to say bearing in mind their duty to Parliament. Spin? Journalists rely on information officers to deal in facts, to explain policy and to ensure that credibility is never put at issue. We try to make it interesting to gain the attention of the fickle, impatient and imperfect filter of the free media. We don't complain about it; it's a fact of life and a challenge many of us relish. And there is always a press officer on duty out of office

What is our output? In my own department since the elec-

than 400 press releases; 100plus newspaper articles; more than 350 ministerial interviews; the Government's first White Paper and many other policy documents; dozens of press briefings. And also answered more than 50,000 telephone calls. I am sure this effort is

matched elsewhere in White-

JONATHAN HASLAM Director of Communications Department for Education and

Animal testing

Sir: I looked at the front page of The Independent this morning (21 October) and was horrified. The sight of a laboratory rabbit's red, irritated eye, discharging down its face sent a cold shiver down my spine.

Why should animals be subject to such torture and abuse? tion we have dealt with more Because they are not humans?

Because they do not speak our language? Because they do not own houses? Because they are not big enough to stop these people? Just because we know not what they think, it does not mean that they do not think or feel anything.

There are enough cosmetics on this earth, but if these cosmetic companies wish to make more and test them, they should test them on themselves. Small animals such as guinea pigs and rabbits can do nothing against us, so we should not take advantage of them. RYAN PENFOLD

(aged 12) Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Sir: I congratulate you on an impressive front-page report (21 October) on the apparent weakening of Labour's position on animal experimentation.

The Home Secretary has, however, accepted all the recommendations of the Animal Procedures Committee. Labour's pre-election pledges were somewhat more visionary than the consensus recommendations of the advisory committee the minister inherited. The Government also inherited the cut in the "alternatives research" budget. No doubt it will substantially increase this sum in the

next Budget round. The issue of an outright ban on cosmetics testing is complicated by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. If we were to ban the use of animals here we could not ban the import of animal-tested cosmetics from abroad. That is not an excuse, just a fact. Since Labour came to government no licences have been issued for cosmetic, tobacco or alcohol tests, nor are animals

being used in Britain for weapons testing. We all look forward to a

world where we do not use animals in painful experiments. The real test of this government will be its performance on the European and international stage. Until Britain takes the very modest step of ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Animal Experimentation it will be very difficult for us to claim the moral high ground.

CINDY MILBURN UK Director International Fund for Animal

Welfare Crowborough, East Sussex

Sir: A sense a proportion is needed, and some background

knowledge helps. It is entirely appropriate for Robert Fisk to remind us of the horrors in Algeria. It is the duty of a good paper to put that report on its front page (22 October). It is entirely inappropriate and, worse, ignorant, to give front-page status to the use of 2,800 rabbits, guinea pigs and rats for testing cosmetics (21 October).

TERRIBLE

MESS.

ISN'T

What is striking to a medical scientist is how few animals are being used. At the outside, 2,800 animals means that only 280 substances are being tested. more likely something nearer 28. Extraordinarily few substances are being tested on animals. If you suffer from allergies, and as many as one in ten of us do, you would be very grateful to know that the soaps or creams that you put on your skin are tested, and in the last analysis testing on animals gives a higher degree of

confidence than tests in tubes. In Holland the anti-vivisection movement puts its money into a Dutch Platform for Alternatives to Animal Testing, Anti-vivisectionists here would do well to do the same rather than expecting us. through taxation, to pay for their guilt trips. Dr MARTIN ROSENDAAL

Sir: For several years I have

in black and white

used, and paid the licence fee for, a black-and-white television set. Today I received a communication from the TV Licensing Office which asks me to confirm, by filling in a form and posting it, that I have not acquired a colour set or a video recorder; this is supposed to enable the office to update their records".

I am a busy working person and, I hope, an honest citizen; I find it at best irritating and at worst sinister that I am apparently required to take the time to confirm th t I am not breaking the law.

Ms B S PURCELL Norwich

Refugees at Dover

Sir. Is not the influe of refugees from Eastern Europe to Dover simply the consequence of the present government's adoption of a previous Conservative policy - that of failing to fulfil the pledge of free movement of persons in the Single European

These refugees can cross the European Union because they are in transit to the British internal immigration control at Dover. If there was no strend control they would not get paid the European Union control between Germany and the Czech Republic.

The Rev PETER M HAWKINS Peterhorough, Cambridgeshire

Strange influence

Sir: Patrick Cockburn ("Yemen points finger at Saudis over kidnappings", 21 October) reports claims that the Saudi government managed, from Riyadh, to persuade a tribe in the mou tains of Yemen to kidnap a geartleman from Britain to destabilise the government in Sana'a. He doesn't present a shred of evidence, not even the feel it to be my duty to express porter's touching faith in

GHAZI ALGOSAIBI Ambassador Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Sir: When will the tobacco industry give up parroting its line that passive smoking does

conversation with the proverbial taxi driver. However, I my admiration for your re? my government's supernatural abilities.

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I have nothing to declare but my disappointment at this grim portrayal of a funny man



Recently, while staying with re- then, ruined the place. lations near Toronto, I was forced to go and see Niagara Falls, the sensational spot at which water from Canada falls into the United States, which seems to be set at a slightly lower level. The only prior impressions I had gained of this awe-inspiring sight came from accounts given by two famous people who were both, oddly enough, homosexual visitors of the 19th century.

One was Tchaikovsky, who tells his diary that he tried to pick some wild flowers but had his ear chewed off for it by some early environmentalist, and who also made some surprisingly anti-Semitic remarks

The other was Oscar Wilde, who was more light-hearted about it, as you might imagine. He said that Niagara was the first major disappointment in a series of disappointments in the American marriage. Somebody asked him if it were not amazing that 80,000,000 gallons of water fell over the falls every minute, or some such figure. Oscar smartly replied that it would be amazing if they did-

Now, that is the Oscar Wilde I like to remember, the man who sparkled and twinkled and made men laugh, not the man trailing aesthetic

film made about Oscar Wilde which stopped somewhere before the debacle - a film about his time in America, perhaps - but I will never see such a film, because the whole point of Oscar Wilde now is seen as the final tragedy, the martyrdom, the victimisation, the crucifizion without the resurrection. The fact that it was no such thing is seldom mentioned. Quentin Crisp is one of the few clear-sighted enough to

"Mr Wilde floundered between sordidness and an almost fatuous conception of beauty. He festooned the dung-heap on which he had placed himtheories or the self-created self with sonnets as people martyr. I would like to see a grow honeysuckle round out-

door privies... He need never have brought any legal action. He could have feigned to be above confession and denial. Of his friends some would have known that he was queer; some would not - would have been impossible to convince. All implored him to go abroad for a time. Mr Wilde took no one's advice. He stayed because he was a spiteful man and also because he couldn't bear to leave the stage..."

That was written in 1975 and suggests that Mr Crisp does not approve of Mr Wilde. This is perhaps odd, in that the two of them had exactly the same career, except back to front. Wilde soared into fame and fortune, then fell into spectacular disgrace because of his sexual nature and ended up penury and ignominy abroad. Crisp spent the first half of his life in obscurity, being spat at in the street for his wilful homosexual display, then fell out of disgrace, acquired celebrity, and was forced to flec to America to embrace fame.

But even now he has still not lost his distaste for Oscar. Here is what he says about it on page 222 of Resident Alien (published by HarperCollins, 1996): "I was questioned by Mr Evans about Mr Wilde, When it transpired that I heartily disliked Mr Wilde, Mr Evans was nonplussed. 'You have taken the wind out of my sails," he cried. I offered to put it back

but he declined.

"The thing that I deplore about Mr Wilde was that he never came to grips with how sordid his life had become. When the names of five or six boys whom Mr Wilde knew only in Braille (they were procured by Lord Alfred Douglas and met Mr Wilde in darkened rooms in Oxford) he was still bleating about love and invoking the fair name of Mr Plato, who died a Greek philosopher and came back as

YES)

PRIESTLEY

no harm to anyone (letter, 20

of the UK's 3.4m people with

asthma, other people's cigarette

smoke is a major cause of asth-

smoking has tended to focus

on its long-term effects. Al-

though these are undoubted-

industry can, as a result, en-

gage in often esoteric discus-

sion about the levels of proof

front of a person with asthma

and the proof will be there be-

National Asslma Campaign

Light up a cigarette in

significant, the tobacco

The debate about passive

For as many as 80 per cent

Tobacco attack

October)?

ma attacks.

required.

fore your eyes.

Chief Executive

London N1

MELINDA LETTS

a spinster's alibi Someone compared him with Gore Vidal, which I found strange. Mr Wilde was a gross human being trying to enter English society. Mr Vidal is

get out of society. Mr Wilde once said that there was only one thing worse than being talked about and that was not being talked about. He was a sort of male version of Madonna. All this discourse took place with us sitting on a small raised dais facing inward, in the middle of a restaurant full of respectable, middle-aged ladies eating toast and sipping tea. For incongruity, the situation certainly took a lot of beat-

Still, not quite as incongruous, perhaps, as the way Oscar Wilde is now being portrayed as a hero and martyr instead of as the man who flew, transfixed by the glare of his own publican elegant American trying to ity, towards his own ruin.

Never mind the jokes, fat is a serious issue



RUPERT CORNWELL EAT, DRINK AND AVOID THE RESULTS

Our first reaction is to laugh. Take yesterday's news from Brasilia, deemed wacky enough to have the announcers snickering on the Today programme. Fat people in the Brazilian capital, it transpires, will soon have specially reserved, extra wide seats in theatres and buses. "My father in law for instance hasn't gone to the theatre for 20 years," explained the city councillor who sponsored the measure, "because it's too uncomfortable and he was too embarrassed."

Serves the fellow right, too, we in the large (but diminishing) majority of the girth-unchallenged will mutter - before adding that of people are to be permitted to spread themselves over an entire row in the bus or a couple of stalls seats in a sold out theatre, then just make sure they pay double whack for the privilege. After all do we not agree with America's latest guru, Michael Fumento? Enough of this culture of victimisation, selfpity, and attendant politically correct nonsense. There's nothing that half an hour's exercise each day won't put right. Obesity is simply a health problem bred of over indulgence, which any individual can cure if he puts his mind to it.

Would that it were. Consider a couple of other news items of late - the tragedy of voung Kelly Yeomans who took her own life after school bullies tormented her for being fat and frumpy; or the equally self-inflicted death this week of a 30-year-old woman of norexia, end result of a dieting pact with her sister after they had been dubbed the "fat twins" when they were not even teenagers. No one could accuse Samantha and Michaela Kendall of not putting their mind to it. Laughter can be a pretty cheap shot.

The fact is that fatness is a product of our age as much as a single person's character flaws. Maybe it can in most cases be remedied with self discipline and restraint - but then so can most other of today's addictions. There are those who presumably enjoy being fat or even grossly fat, much as other peoa day, or drinking ten pints of beer. At least as many however probably hate it. If not, why did Diet Coke with its quite repulsive flavour quickly capture 10 per cent of the US soft drinks market? Drinking Coke is great; but being thin is even better. Such is the ethos of our times. The word itself is clothed in euphemisms: robust, generously

proportioned, even - at a stretch - extralarge. But almost never fat.

And yet the condition is epidemic. America, of course, where on current trends half the population may be obese by the end of the century and 350,000 already die each year from diabetes, heart disease and other weight-related ailments. But let not Britain speer at the land of the triple-Whopper, halfgallon soft drinks and suitcase-sized portions of popcorn. According to the World Health Organisation, no less than one in five of us is obese, three times as many as in the 1970s. Yes, we eat too much and exercise too little; the question, however, is less what has gone wrong, but why.

Overeating is direct product of the successes and failings of our industrial civilisation. Food, cheap and lots of it, is instantly and everywhere available, marketed by companies to whose financial advantage it is that we consume as much of the stuff as possible. And yet we are little the happier for it. We feel less in control of our lives than ever. Government, it seems, is no longer ultimately the province of flesh and blood politicians, with their regrettable but very human failings. Rather, we are just numbers and statistics in the hands of computers and disembodied corporations, mugs in a world where promise is always one tantalising step ahead of reality. Small wonder we seek consoling comforts like drugs, sex, alcohol, the national lottery - and, most easily obtainable of all, food.

Yes, it would be marvellous if we took ourselves in hand. Get ye behind me, chips and bacon butties and fat free Doritos. But as we all know, it ain't that easy. Failing an iron will, there is always hope that fashion's wheel will turn again, that somehow Renoir nudes will be restored as pin-ups of the age. In Samoa, after all, 75 per cent of women are obese and no less cherished for that. And what of the affection for Sumo wrestlers in Japan, land par excellence of the slender and petite?

But don't count on it. In the meantime, if Western society is to banish fatness from its midst, let it do so by looking to its strengths and not its weaknesses. Where we excel is technology, especially when a breakthrough can be worth billions. If we can clone sheep and land probes on Mars, then surely capitalism can find a cure for fatness.

The latest and most promising candidate for this elixir is a drug called Xenical, whose trick is to prevent our bodies absorbing the fot in the food we eat, instead of merely blunting the appetite as do most anti-obesity pills. Its maker, the Swiss drugs firm HoffmanlaRoche who could earn \$700m a year in the US alone from Xenical, warns there are side effects, and vitamin supplements may be required. But unlike human nature, drugs can be perfected. This, logically, is where the future lies in the fight against obesity.

Ah, it will be protested, this is just a copt for m potatoes. But who objects to the use of nicotine patches to kick smoking, or the unceasing, hugely expensive quest for a cure for Aids, both of them, like obesity, ailments of our times? And if such a drug had existed before, it might have saved not only embarrassment to the father in law in Brasilia but the life of people like Samantha Kendall.



Learning lessons at a Muslim school in Batley, Yorkshire

23/COMMENT

Photograph: Azadour Guzelian

In defence of Islamophobia



POLLY TOYNBEE RELIGION AND THE STATE

I am an Islamophobe. I judge Islam not by its words - the teachings of the Koran as interpreted by those Thought-forthe-Day moderate Islamic theologians. I judge Islam by the religion's deeds in the societies where it dominates. Does that make me a racist?

For I am also a Christophobe. If Christianity were not such a spent force in this country, if it were powerful and dommant as it once was, it would still be every bit as damaging as Islam is in those theocratic states in its thrall. Christianity remains a lethal weapon in Northern feel the same way about Judaism. Everywhere in the world where religion dominates over the state, that is a bad place to live. Religiophobia is highly rational.

The plea by the Runnymede Trust for understanding and protection for the Muslim com-

enough. We are still a racist society and to be a poor, black, non-English speaking Bangladeshi woman in, say, London's East End, is to be not so much a second- as a third-class citizen. No doubt some of the racism such women suffer does spring from the fact that they are Muslim. But there is no hard evidence that poor, black, non-English speakers of other faiths are treated any better than Muslims. Racism is the problem, not religion.

The Runnymede report calls for a ban on religious discrimination, pointing out that people are often attacked because of their religious dress. But discrimination on grounds of appearance is already covered by our race relations laws. If Runnymede had its way and outlawed incitement to religious hatred, I would not be allowed to write this now (which you may or may not think a good thing). Many Muslims also want our Christian blasphemy laws, mercifully almost defunct, resuscitated to cover all religions. But how could any idea of free speech survive a ban on criticism or mockery of what others think and believe?

cellent record on race, and who also has 20,000 Muslims in his Blackburn constituency, spoke out bravely yesterday when he told the Runymede Trust that the government would not introduce legislation to outlaw religious discrimination.

The report protests that Is- evidence, no cross-examination,

munity is understandable lam is caricatured as one monolithic bloc, when of course it has its moderates and extremists with a plethora of varying interpretations in societies around the globe. The report says that Islam is seen as "barbaric, irrational, primitive and sexist" when it should be seen as " distinctly different, but not deficient and as equally worthy of respect." This is not easy with a religion that describes women as of inferior status, placing them one step behind in the divine order of things. That is not

equally worthy of respect. To be sure, it is unfair to blame some of the moderate British Muslims for the excesses of many Islamic nations. But it would be reassuring to see them out on the streets demonstrating vigorously and vociferously for the lifting of the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, offering him their strong protection and support. The fact that he has been forced to live in solitary confinement all these years because of the threat from Islamic states is not something that can easily be soothed away by describing that religion as "equally worthy of respect". Should I, or indeed Salman Rushdie and his supporters, be

We watch the progress of justice under a shariah court in Saudi Arabia with unmitigated horror. Guilty or not, the two nurses have had no justice, however much we allow for cultural differences. No witnesses, no

the defendants not allowed to know the evidence against them in order to refute it, judges sitting in secret - this isn't a cultural misunderstanding, this is injustice. Is it racist to say so? Could we still say so if there was a law protecting religions? The report also claims the

right to state support for muslim schools. Although we are the most secular and irreligious nation in Europe, one third of our state schools are run by religions - from Orthodox Jewish and Roman Catholic to Christian Brothers and bigotted nuns. The state, bizarrely, is already paying for some unpleasantly extreme religious beliefs to be taught right across the spectrum - but not yet for Muslims. That looks unjust, but only if you think we should be egalitarian about

the propagation of unreason. Ever since July 1996 the Secretary of State for Education has had the approval of the first grant maintained Muslim school sitting in the office intray. First Gillian Shephard, now David Blunkett, have simply left it there, pending. The proposal for a new Muslim school in Birmingham has passed all the hurdles and has received the imprimature of the has the Islamia primary school in North London. With a waiting list of 1,000, there can hardly be said to be insufficient local "demand". What is to be done?

The Rationalist Press Association and the National Secular Society were quick yesterday to issue a statement opposing the granting of state status and funding to any Islamic schools. They have passionately opposed all religious state education ever since the first religious school was funded in 1902. Protestants at the time protested about "Rome on the Rates". Now there will no doubt be indignation at "Mec-

ca on the Rates". The Rationalists have the only consistent reason for opposing Muslim schools: they are against all religion in state education. Yesterday they claimed Islamic schools "discriminate against girls, offer little artistic and physical education and serve to marginalise a community already seriously marginalised - as emphasised by the Runnymede Trust itself."

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The US constitution forbids religious worship or teaching in state schools. Now is the time for us to follow suit. For once some are allowed sectarian education, there is no reason why others shouldn't be allowed their schools too - New Agers, astrologists. Moonies or any other sect or cult with a sufficient number of followers. After all, if you really believe the stars govern our everyday lives, be taught the details of the movements and influences of the planets and the zodiac. If you think that's all nonsense but the Bible is the literal truth, be warned, for there is no satisfactory legal definition of a religion. A religion is just a cult with more followers.

Nail-biting pensées from the literary heart of Gloucestershire



JOHN: WALSH

Ive spent the last ten days in a state of chronic and helpiess introduction. As director of the Cheltenham Festival of Literature, I've introduced at least O literary celebrities to cheerg audiences. And I must pretent the 1997 Charm On A Stick Award to Alan Clark, following his performance, which climaxed, if that's the appropriate word, last weekend. He sat on a stage in front of 900 people and somehow contrived

to flirt with all of them simultaneously. There was nothing obviously seductive about it. On the contrary - Clark went out of his way to talk about serious matters, like European Monetary Union, the fall of Macmillan and the abdication of Edward VIII. He was keen to display to the world the forgotten figures of Clark the Historian and Clark the Economist, who lurk unseen within the more familiar figures of Clark the Bounder and Clark the Incorrigible Old Roué. He didn't repeat his bracing prognosis that you could solve the Northern Irish problem overnight by rubbing out 600 suspected members ("Tll gladly explain what I meant by that, if you give me 10 minutes, he told Simon Hoggart. "Nah." replied Hoggart, "We prefer the original version") but he had plenty to say about the Welfare State, "which is simply the redistribution of income from the enterprising and the hardworking to the indigent". His lack of respect for the shenanigans of the Tory Party ("the combination of Redwood and Clarke at the leadership election - if I were a shockable person, I'd have been shocked by that") was balanced by a corresponding failure to feel awe before the Labour leader: "Tony Blair has transitioned, to use a management consultant's term, from being early Bill Clinton to being full-blown Margaret Thatcher to finish as up-market Billy Graham". The burghers of Cheltenham bought it wholesale. They murmured in rapture. How could

last election? Now if only the Chelsea & Kensington safe seat hadn't selected Alan C. they could surely have found a

And throughout all this stuff, you couldn't ignore an undercurrent of rampant pheremones, a sussuration of smut, that wove around the subjects of the conversation. It got everywhere, like Lida Jardine or the smell of paraffin. When Clark was asked if he used the Internet, and he said, "No I find it frustrating. It takes far too long to get anything up", the audience suiggered as if at a Benny Hill show. Emboldened by this response, a man in the crowd asked Clark "Has the new influx of woman MPs had a significant effect on you?", and you could hear a few score hankies being stuffed into their owners' mouths. Even Clark's unusual, rather Edwardian, pronunciation of "monetarist" as "moan-a-tryst" had a Keatsian sensuosity about it, at least as far as the Gloucestershire [next 2 words itals]grande dames were concerned. Their collective desire was rewarded when Clark delivered a ringing, generalised hero-gram to the entire gender. "Anyone making remarks about the female sex is bound to sound patronising," he ventured boldly. "But I think women have superior judgement to men. On many topics, women are more bumane, they're gentler. Their good instincts haven't been re-

Ohhhhh, shivered (or so it seemed) the entire distaff side

they have voted Lib Dem at the of Cheltenham Spa. Ohhhh, stop it you awful man ...

> One intriguing presence at this year's Festival was that of a human chameleon, a man who kept turning into the people he was talking to. He came to every event which boasted a famous figure, asking questions from the floor, arguing with every author in high academic jargon, as if trying to incarnate their spirit. No subject, however recondite or unpromising, was safe from his Zelig-like interventions at question time.

> Thus Nicola Horlick, in the midst of a blizzard of fluffy enquiries about ber children's nannies and holidays and pets. found herself suddenly grilled from the floor about return-oninvestment percentages, mezzanine financing, 5.7 this and 13.8 that, Rothschilds, Solomon Bros, Lazard Freres ... You'd think it was some irascible nonexecutive director of Ms Horlick's old employer, S G Warburg, getting his own back. But scarcely hours later, Prof Norman Davies, at the end of his lecture on European identity and its future, was abruptly counter-lectured from the carpet about the political clites and oligarchies that really run the continent. Finding no question lurking amid this I'm-a-historian-too tirade, Davies gestured wordlessly at the audience to ask

Having turned himself. briefly, into a financial wizard and a political analyst, the man (or at least his voice) surfaced again as a journalist, when Auberon Waugh and Keith Wa-

him something else.

terhouse talked to Christopher those oddly forensic-looking Silvester about the world of newspaper columnists. The same clipped, reedy tones, oddly reminiscent of Professor Moriarty in The Goon Show, could be heard in the auditorium asking, rhetorically, Why oh why have newspaper columnists now taken over from religious leaders as the only truth-tellers that ordinary people can trust? (It could have been Paul Johnson on an offday. It could have been AN Wilson on a good day. It was neither). The last I heard of this extraordinary person was at the end of a session in which Jeremy Lewis and David Pryce-Jones discussed Cyril Connolly,



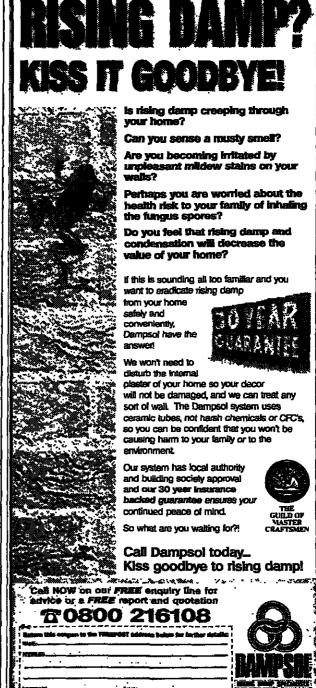
Alan Clark

about whom Lewis has written the official biography. After some cursory chat, Mr Zelig clasped Lewis's arm and said. "Jeremy! Don't you remember me?". He had, it appeared, turned into Connolly some time during the previous hour ...

The hot topic of the week, amazingly, is "Nail-biting and what it signifies", judging by all photographs of Gordon Brown's well-chewed digits in the national papers. A professor of psychology from Manchester University, with either a severe Desmond Morris complex or a burning desire to create mischief, told the Press Association that Mr Brown's bitten nails indicate that he was feeling "out of control". The habit, he droned, is "a reflection of stress and unhappiness" and clearly signified the poor Chancellor felt "damned". Well obviously this is good

news for those of us who have spent a lifetime tearing little chunks of horn off their fingers for years and nibbling them to death. Biting one's nails may be a sign of frustration or auxiety or impatience among those who don't usually do it. But as a habit it's of no more significance than sucking your thumb. It's an accompaniment to concentration, a necessary precondition of reading a book, a light snack, a nicotine substitute, a spur to thought. When I look at Rodin's statue, Le Penseur, with the thinker's mouth reflectively brushing his folded metacarpais, I feel I know exactly what he is thinking: he is trying to decide between the tiny hanguail (middle finger, right hand) or the fat moony crescent that has just hauled itself above the horizon of the left thumb. Out of control? Stress and unhappiness? Hah! Mr Brown is in the grip of a blissful addiction, and a fruitful relationship with his physical being. It's pretentious Mancunian psychos who

are out of control.



BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Order-driven confusion fuelled by Asian turmoil

The Stock Exchange's new order-driven trading system had its first serious test yesterday as turmoil in Far Eastern markets spilled over into a volatile day's trading in London. Tom Stevenson and Stephen Vines report on the gyrations at home and abroad.

Shares fluctuated wildly yesterday as turmoil in Asian equity markets unsettled investors in the first serious test of the Stock Exchange's new orderdriven computer which started trading on Monday. Having for some of yesterday's volatilbeen 31 points higher at one stage, the FTSE 100 index of leading shares fell as much as 100 points before closing at 5148.8, down 77.1 points. rivatives trades.

The gloomy tone was set overnight by the Hong Kong market, which tumbled 765.3 points to close at 11,637.8. The Hang Seng index has fallen by acerbated by continuing low almost 15 per cent this week. Other Asian markets fell as well and in afternoon trading the bearish baton was handed on to Wali Street. The "battle of Hong Kong",

as dealers have dubbed the spreading economic crisis in the technique for dealing in the Far East, has seen the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the former British colony's equivalent of a central bank, pitted against powerful international funds which have already forced a string of other countries in the region to devalue their currencies.

maintain the local currency's peg with the US dollar, which has seen interest rates soar, has weighed heavily on a stock market whose heavy property exposure makes it vulnerable to fell on Tuesday from 42 per cent

How the market has become more volatile

to 34 per cent but picked up yes-

terday to around 40 per cent.

divide between the US dealers,

driven trading, and their British

the overnight collapse in the

Seng index was the biggest this

year and was accompanied by

even bigger falls in other indices,

particularly the red-chip index,

tracking China-connected com-

panies, which suffered a one-day

plunge of more than 13 per cent.

rections. Some came from big

players who have taken short

positions in the Hang Seng in-

dex futures market. They stand

Meanwhile, interbank in-

terest rates soared to 11 per cent

yesterday, compared with 7 per

cent on Friday and a prime lend-

ing rate of 8.75 per cent. These

movements convinced the markets that prime rates were set

to rise, a view reinforced by

Time Chee-wah, the head of the

Hong Kong government, who

said in London that he thought

interest rates could rise in or-

in the physical market.

Brokers said yesterday that

Yesterday's fall in the Hang

Another reason for the mar-

counterparts.

Hang Seng index.

increases in the cost of money. In London, arbitrageurs attempting to profit from a difference between the value of FTSE futures and the index's underlying shares were blamed ity. The index regularly jumped more than 10 points at a time as baskets of shares were 89p to 1,766p in index heavy-bought or sold to counter de-weight HSBC, which was hit by

The volatility of the market, which had been expected as a by-product of the introduction of automated trading, was exvolumes, although more shares were traded than at the start of the week. Dealers said the big institutional investors were still sitting on their hands until the system, which does away with sell orders poured in from all dithe traditional quote-driven largest stocks, settled down.

Investors planning to buy or sell large amounts of stock to gain a great deal from falls were reported to be sticking to the telephone yesterday with too little depth in the order book to satisfy their needs. Some dealers said it was impossible to trade in some stocks, including The authority's fight to Hays and Railtrack, at some points during the day.

The proportion of trades in FTSE 100 stocks carried out via the automated computer rather than through market-makers

der to protect the Hongkong dollar. Hong Kong is particularly sensitive to interest rate rises as the stock market is underpinned by property counters which are highly sensitive to movements in interest rates.

Alone among its neighbours, with the exception of China, Hong Kong has been immune from the currency falls which have taken a heavy toll elsewhere. Yesterday currency turmoil in South-east Asia deepened as the Thai and Malaysian correncies fell to new lows and even the once rock-solid Singapore dollar There appeared to be a clear suffered its biggest fall since 1994. A spokesman for the who are familiar with order-Hong Kong Monetary Authority yesterday described trading in the local currency as "very stable and orderly" with the ket's poor showing was a fall of Hongkong dollar emerging on the strong side of its fixed rate of HK\$7.8 to the US dollar.

However, James Tien, the chairman of the influential Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and a leading legislator, has broken the taboo of regarding the fixed link as sacrosanct and suggested it was time for a reassessment.

He was rebuffed from all quarters, including the financial secretary, Donald Tsang, who said yesterday: "There is absolutely no pressure on me to move the link in any way."

Nevertheless, market players are haunted by the prospect of Hong Kong plunging into the mess affecting its neighbours.

Some analysts think the selfoff in Hong Kong has been overdone. "We must be getting pretty near to the point where people are going to do some bargain hunting," said Howard Georges, a director at the South China Brokerage. Ricky Tam of Delta Asia Securities said a lot of blue chips were now trading at very attractive prices.

Market report, page 27

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said

Victim of its own success: Boeing is having difficulty adjusting to much higher production levels this year

Boeing \$2.6bn charge shocks Wall St

Boeing yesterday stunned Wall Street and the aerospace industry by warning it was taking a \$2.6bn charge to cover production problems in its commercial aircraft division. US plane maker has become the victim of its own success.

The charges will plunge Boeing into a loss for the third quarter and also have an impact on its profitability throughout 1998. The announcement sent Boeing shares down by 8 per cent, making them the biggest faller in New York.

Ironically, the losses now faced by Boeing are the direct result of the boom the aircraft industry is enjoying. Production rates at its Seattle plants on the Pacific coast have doubled in the past 18 months because of unprecedented demand from the world's airlines.

Phil Condit, the Boeing chairman, said the difficulties the company was experi-

encing in adjusting to these much high-er production levels this year had reached 'unexpected levels": Boeing expects the production hold-ups that have resulted to knock \$1.6bn from its third-quarter \$13bn takeover of McDonnell Dor expects to incur further charges next year of \$1bn.

The shock news wiped \$4.25 off Boeing shares, sending them down to \$49.75 in heavy trading.

The production problems have forced Boeing to close its 747 and 737 production lines for a month while bottlenecks and supply difficulties with component manufacturers are sorted out and the thousands of extra workers Boeing has hired adjust to the increased production rates. Since spring of last year, output from Seattle has jumped from 20 aircraft to 40 aircraft a month. This year Boeing will deliver 340 aircraft compared with 220 last year and is sitting on an orders backlog of 1,629 jets.

A spokesman said: "We are suffering from a surfeit of success. Airlines are or-

dering at unprecedented rates and we are struggling to ensure we can supply all the aircraft they need."

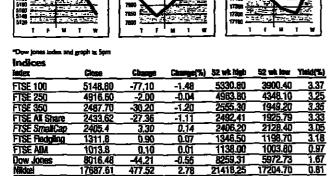
He said the problems had been incurred not so much because of the absolute earnings, due to be reported tomorrow. levels of production, which were not at The group, which has just completed the record levels by historic standards, but be-

The worst-hit area is the production line for the new generation 737, which will account for the bulk of the \$1.6bn charge Boeing is taking in the third quarter. The company has orders for nearly 700 of the

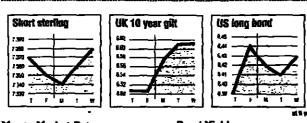
new jets but has yet to deliver a single one. The speed with which production rates have risen has caught suppliers out and some have been unable to deliver components on time. This has resulted in severe disruption to production with large numbers of aircraft awaiting components. Boeing was also forced to make alterations to the tail section of the new 737, which delayed certification and caused the pro-

duction line to back up further. These problems have been compounded by a shift to a different production system and the strains imposed by a mass recruitment programme.

STOCK MARKETS

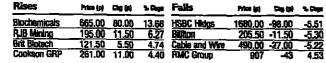


INTEREST RATES

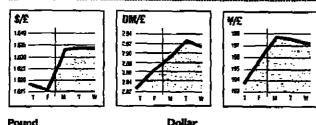


1 yr chg 10 year 1 yr chg Long boad

MAIN PRICE CHANGES



CURRENCIES



1.5995

2.4409

179.73 Yen

Sterling 0.6122 +0.02p 0.6252

120.73 +40.16 112.36

D-Mark 1.7834 -0.47pt

89.30 \$ Index 105.50 +0.10

OTHER INDICATORS

1.6335 -0.07c

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Drop in sales blamed on one-off factors

High-street sales volumes fell sharply last month, but the drop was explained by special factors such as the Royal funeral. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports on the debate about whether or not the Bank of England will decide to raise interest rates next month.

Yesterday's official retail sales figures kept City economists busy trying to figure out how much of the 1.9 per cent drop in volumes last month was explained by one-off factors. While there was no doubt that the funeral, the unseasonably warm weather and the tailingoff of building society windfalls dented sales, the experts could not agree what this said about the underlying pace of growth in the economy.

The Office for National Statistics said the special factors probably knocked 2 per cent off sales, implying that underlying volumes were roughly flat. This would have left the annual growth rate unchanged at more than 5 per cent, whereas the published figure showed it slowig to 3.7 per cent. Mark Wall, an economist at

yesterday's figures were a special case. "There is no firm evidence that the economy is slowing, while inflation pressures. particularly from the labour market, are rising," he said. On the other side of the ar-

gument, John O'Sullivan at NatWest Markets said the drop in sales could not be shrugged off as a special case. "It is difficult to see the Monetary Policy Committee deciding that we need an immediate rate rise," he concluded. The pound weakened a shade to DM2.91 yesterday. The difficulty in interpreting vesterday's figures means figures

for third-quarter GDP, the broadest measure of economic activity, will be more than usually important. Most analysts expect the figures, due tomorrow, to show an increase in national output of around 1 per cent. More than that would tip the

balance in favour of a quarterpoint rise in interest rates to 7.25 per cent in November. Even I per cent growth during the quarter would be well above the economy's sustainable trend. Retail sales account for two-

fifths of consumer spending and exclude items such as new cars. The Bank of England's decision might hinge on the pace of growth in services, where skill shortages and pay pressures appear most intense.

Investors to be offered shares in Third World ventures

The public is to be invited to buy shares in Third World investment projects following yesterday's announcement that the Government intends to privatise the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). which channels funds to ventures in some of the world's

poorest countries. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Develcoment, who has championed

couraged to take stakes when the business is floated on the stock market, probably in 1999.

The Government plans to float a majority stake, probably 60 per cent, with the aim of ploughing the proceeds back into the development programme at the same time as freeing CDC to tap private sources of capital.

Lord Cairns, CDC's chairman, said that with a new fithe partial sale of CDC, is keen nancial structure and access to that private investors are en- capital markets, it could double

its growth rate and gear up the terday that the privatisation balance sheet to invest an additional £100m a year.

The privatisation of CDC will be the first since Labour came into power. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said the coming a public/private partnership. The Government will golden share, allowing it to determine investment policy.

There were suggestions yes-

could value CDC at £500m but officials stressed that no decisions had been made on how to structure its balance sheet or the mix of debt and equity.

The CDC has invested CDC could be improved by be- £1.6bn since it began life 50 years ago, pioneering the development of palm oil plant retain a substantial majority tions in Sabah and Sarawak. It holding and will also retain a now lends only to private-sector businesses.

- Michael Harrison Outlook, page 25

Train operators face fresh fines for call answering failures

More than 10 per cent of rail passengers using the national telephone inquiry service are still failing to get through. Randeep Ramesh explains why, despite protestations from train companies, the regulator will fine them for not meeting his performance targets.

Train operators will be fined more than considerably better performance than £150,000 by the rail regulator after fail- the previous month it was not good

per cent of calls from passengers in four tember, nearly 20 per cent of all inweeks. John Swift QC, the rail regulator, instigated the investigation into the service after months of "awful" service. In the four-week period under scrutiny, nearly 13 calls in every 100

went unanswered. This is the second time the regulator has acted. In September, Mr Swift fined the 25 passenger train operators £250,000 after they failed to answer nearly 750,000 calls in a month.

Although the system produced a ing to meet the target of answering 90 enough. In the week ending 27 Sep-

quiries - more than 240,000 calls - were not answered.

The system has been handling more than 1 million calls a week - up by more than 200,000 on last year's figures - but has seemed incapable of taking many more enquiries.

The open-ended "enforcement order" means the regulator's office can keep penalising the privatised industry if it continually misses Mr Swift's target of 90 per cent.

The train companies argued that the Southall train crash on 19 September had put such a severe strain on the sys-

formance should be excluded from the statistics. Mr Swift did not agree. His officials pointed out that for the week ending 20 September the operators answered 90.2 per cent of calls.

On the day of the incident, when a passenger train ploughed into a freight wagon, more than 80,000 calls were received in one three-hour period. This is double the capacity of the telephone system for the period. Mr Swift did allow the large numbers of missed calls on the day of the crash to be stripped from his calculations.

However, his officials have taken a numbers of calls.

hard line and insisted that the extra calls made by concerned passengers during the following week have to be included.

The Association of Train Companies (Atoc), which represents the 25 passenger operators and runs the telephone system, claimed that, without the Southall disaster, it would have

easily met the 90 per cent target. Atoc executives have also commissioned a firm of telecommunications consultants to investigate how emergency services and airlines deal with sudden, large

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OUTLOOK ON TURMOIL IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. REDEFINING THE CHANCELLOR'S ROLE. AND NEW LABOUR'S FIRST EXPERIMENT IN PRIVATISATION

Hong Kong crash gives London the jitters

Forget fears of a crash on Wall Street: taining the present parity. The instability we've already had one in Hong Kong. Yesterday's 6 per cent fall in the Hang Seng index means the Hong Kong market has now fallen 30 per cent in only two months, with half of that collapse occurring since the weekend. Having taken the weaker economies to the cleaners during the summer, the international speculators are showing a worrying interest in destabilising the region's only relatively safe haven.

How much the deepening crisis in South-east Asia matters was underscored by yesterday's tumble in the London stock market, its worst in almost two months. With ABB announcing job cuts as a consequence of the Malaysian government's postponement of its giant Bakun dam project, the financial meltdown is showing unnerving evidence of moving out into the real world economy.

There are good reasons why Hong Kong, which has held up so well in the face of the region's woes, should have started to suffer as well. As the most liquid market in the area, it was always likely to be the conduit through which pressures on Southeast Asian markets would flow. Investors looking for sizeable redemptions have little choice but to sell shares in Hong Kong.

The falls have been exacerbated by the pressure on the peg between the Hong-Kong dollar and its US counterpart, which is looking increasingly shaky. Since the Peking authorities seem to harbour the objective of devaluing against the US currency, there must be a question mark over the former colony's stomach for mainis worsened by the high level of margin trading in Hong Kong and the Hang Seng's heavy exposure to the property market. It is not hard to see why confidence has evaporated so quickly.

With blue-chip shares trading on ridiculously low ratings, there is probably still plenty of value in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, valuation criteria do not seem to be the most important driver of markets these days and until the currency situation is clarified one way or the other, it is hard to see a meaningful recovery. Even then, investors' appetite for the region is likely to remain low for years to come.

Downsizing the Chancellor's job?

What is there left for a Chancellor of the Exchequer to do if macroeconomic policy is running on rails and there's no need or desire for him to fine tune the economy any longer? Gordon Brown has often stated this is what he is aiming for even if he's a way to go before he achieves it. To this end control of monetary policy has already been put in the hands of the newly independent Bank of England and the Chancellor has set clear targets and parameters for fiscal policy and the public finances.

Few even in opposition disagree much with the basics of this approach. If he succeeds in the goal of sustained low inflation growth, there is a sense in which it can be

Politicians traditionally aspire to be chancellor so that they can control the economy. What Gordon Brown has been saying is that it is wrong to want to do that. So other than act as ultimate decision maker in the annual spending round and generally get his knickers in a twist over the single currency, what should he be doing?

A benign macroeconomic policy isn't the only thing that makes for a successful economy and it may be that future chancellors, now that the broad outline of economic policy is so widely accepted, nationally and internationally, will need to interest and involve themselves much more in microeconomic matters - what have traditionally be regarded as the dull and boring areas of training, regulation, welfare, corporate taxation and competition policy. This may sound suspiciously like a formula for meddling even more than the Treasury already does in the affairs of other departments, but Mr Brown does have a point.

The deregulatory reforms of the 1980s, bold and adventurous though they were at the time, left the task of putting in place a modern economy only half complete. In competition policy and law, Britain is still streets behind the US, and although the new Competition Bill aims to correct this, there is still a big gulf between the aim of a vibrant, competitive business environment and the reality. The Government's key role in training and education goes without saying. Mundane, unexciting and time consuming these matters might

said that he has done himself out of a job. seem, but once macro economic policy is on the right tack, these are the things that future chancellors will increasingly have to concern themselves with.

A privatisation with a conscience

Fresh from sending BAT Industries off down tobacco road, its chairman Lord Cairns has been busy on another little spot of corporate restructuring. Yesterday he struck gold when Tony Blair announced that Labour's first experiment in privatisation will be to sell off a majority stake in the Commonwealth Development Corporation, which the chain-smoking lord also happens to chair.

CDC, a vehicle for channelling public funds into third world projects, has been plugging away at getting itself privatised for 18 months. The election result undid all the effort it had put into persuading Linda Chalker what a good idea it all was. But, by luck, Clare Short, her successor at what is now called the Department for International Development, took up the mantle with gusto. Provided time can be found this parliamentary session, then investors will be able to buy shares in a publicly quoted CDC some time in 1999.

This will be quite unlike any sell-off seen before. The early privatisations of gas, telecoms, water and electricity at knock down prices were no brainers that guaranteed small fortunes for shareholders and man-

agements alike. Had Labour wanted to are the process there are still a few tasty morsels left in the locker like the Post Office, air traffic control and maybe even the Tube.

CDC promises to be quite a different animal - a sort of ethical investment trust bearing the personal imprimatur of the Hon Member for Birmingham Ladywood. No disrespect meant to Ms Short, but this is not going to be regarded in the City as an instantly attractive investment proposition. The very thought of palm oil plantations in Sarawak and sugar beet in Swaziland will be sufficient deterrent for many.

Under its present structure, the CDC is required to earn an 8 per cent return on capital employed. Although the balance sheet will be dressed up to give CDC the scope to gear up and investors the incentive to provide equity and loan capital, there will always be better investment opportunities around.

This is not about maximising returns, however. The idea is to provide a vehicle for investors with a conscience who share Ms Short's vision of how best to help the poorest countries in the world. Just in case the privately owned CDC is inclined to forget its heritage, the Government intends to hang on to a golden share allowing it to set the company's parameters. The kick back for Ms Short is that whatever proceeds the flotation raises will be ploughed into her development budget rather than the general government pot. Given the nature of the beast, she may have to settle for somewhat less than the £500m being touted yesterday.

Government set to consult on lifting of broadcasting ban on BT

British Telecom could gain the freedom to offer television down its phone wires next year, under proposals to be announced soon by the **Department of Trade** and Industry. But as Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, explains, another proposal being canvassed would delay the ending of the so-called broadcasting ban until 2000.

Wall 9

A team of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) officials has been investigating the broadcasting ban since shortly after the general election and is expected to publish a consultation document on the issue in the next few weeks. The current policy, formulated by the Conservatives, prevents BT from sending live television channels down its telephone network until 2001, which is 10 vears after the start of the first cable television and telephone franchises.

The DTI is understood to have produced at least three options for the consultation paper, the first of which mirrors Labour's pre-election policy to end the ban in 1998. The policy emerged with the controversial "deal" between BT and Labour, where the company would offer free connections for schools to the

information superhighway. The second proposal would restrict the liberalisation to parts of the UK not covered by cable companies' franchises. This would exclude BT from many urban areas, which have



Wired in: A trial in west London will only offer customers Internet services

the highest concentration of consumer buying power, though BT would be able to launch the service without a licence from Oftel, the industry watchdog.

The third proposal is likely to prove the most controversial. delaying the end of the ban until 2000. It would represent a two-year delay on Labour's pre-election policy and on the recommendations of a 1995 Commons Select Committee report, which also said the ban should end on a rolling basis starting next year.

The DTI is thought to have offered some concessions to the cable industry, after concerns raised by Don Cruickshank, the industry regulator. Cable companies said the 10-year ban was essential to justify their investment programmes. Mr Cruickshank told the DTI the ban, which applies to all telephone companies, could not be removed without a much broader review of broadcasting policy, a principle apparently partly accepted by ministers.

The DTI had been expected to release its proposals within days, but there was speculation last night that the Prime Minister's office had delayed giving its approval. Barbara Roche. the telecommunications minister, was thought likely to mention the review at a cable industry conference earlier this week, but gave no bint about the consultation paper. A DTI spokesman said ministers were

still formulating the proposals. However, industry experts have doubted BT's commitment to a full-scale move into the entertainment market, following trials of the digital technology last year using its local copper network. Some 2,500 homes in Essex took part in the experiment, which included video-on-demand film channels

and home shopping. Another trial will start in west London next spring, but will only offer Internet services. Since last year's trials, BT's sights have shifted to a collaboration with British Sky Broadcasting, taking a 32.5 per cent stake in British Interactive Broadcasting, the digital satel-

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The right choice

Bupa to bid £240m for Care First ding. Neither is Mr Patel. A

Bupa, the private health insurer, is in early-stage talks to buy Care First, the UK's largest quoted nursing home company. Bupa is understood to have offered 150p a share in cash, valuing Care First at £240m. A deal is understood to be about a month away from conclusion, writes

23p up on the day at 138.5p.

Bradshaw will stay on to manage the integrated company.

Graham Smith as managing director of its nursing homes business. Mr Smith was formerly chief executive of Goldsborough Healthcare, which Bupa bought for £76m two

Bupa has been actively and rapidly expanding its healthcare business over the last two years. Buying Goldsborough in August added 32 nursing homes and six hospitals to . Bupa's portfolio.

That deal has just been given clearance by Nigel Griffiths, Labour's competition minister. Mr Griffiths has accepted the monopolies commission.

Countryhouse nursing homes chain and bought another 12 homes from Community Hospitals earlier this year.

yesterday they were interested or even talking to Care First. Pat Carter, chief executive of Westminster Healthcare said

source at Norwich Union, the insurance group, yesterday, said the company had not been approached and that its focus was on products not running nursing homes. Nursing Home Properties, which sells and leases back

nursing homes, said that buying Care First would make leave too big a proportion of their assets with one tenant. A source close to the company said: "We are always looking for assets, but given the alleged management problems, I would think it would be very unlikely we would buy them."

However, an insider at Speciality Care, owned by the aggressive US healthcare group Integrated Healthcare said that they would be keeping an eye on developments. Northern Rock, which owns the Regency chain of care homes said they would not be interested in a bid.

Further blow to RJB as gas-fired power plants are approved

The Government yesterday delivered its second blow to the coal industry in the space of two days when it approved another two gas-fired power projects and relaxed the rules on energy-efficient generating schemes. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, examines the latest

setback for RJB Mining.

John Battle, the industry minister, gave the go-ahead to two gas-fired combined heat and power (CHP) plants, one by PowerGen proposed for British Steel's Port Talbot complex and another by National Power for Esso's oil refinery at Fawley in Hampshire. It brings to five the number of gas-fired power stations approved by

Labour since the election. The Esso plant, costing £60m, would generate 132 megawatts of electricity capacity, of which about 100 megawatts would be sold back to the National Grid. RJB

evitably displace coal-fired generating capacity. The announcement of the projects came the day after Mr Battle ruled out any direct

state help for RJB, owner of

most of the former British

Coal pits, which has yet to renegotiate most of its long term-coal contracts with the big generators for next year. RJB shares recovered 11.5p to 195p after a 24 per cent plunge on Tuesday following a

self recommendation by a City analyst. Mr Battle yesterday said

Mining said this would inthe Department of Trade and Industry would encourage more energy-saving CHP plants, which utilise the surplus heat produced during the generation process, by relaxing the licensing regime. The measure was planned by the previous government but was yesterday reaffirmed by Mr

> Battle. The DTI also disclosed that a further eight applications to build CHP stations had been submitted since April, with enough generating capacity to displace two million tonnes of

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Sameena Ahmad.

Care First yesterday put out a bland statement saying that it has received an approach "which may or may not lead to an offer being made for the company". Shares in the company, which have run up strongly in the last week on rumours of a possible bid, closed

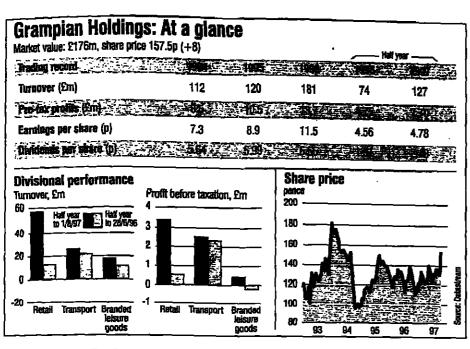
Buying Care First would add 135 nursing homes to Bupa's existing 76 homes, making it one of the UK's leading providers of integrated healthcare. Given controversy over Care First's management, which was criticised by institutions for driving out Chai Patel, the group's former chief executive, it is unlikely that Keith

Bupa has already appointed months ago.

BUPA's undertakings to dispose of Goldsborough's 21 per cent stake in Independent British Healthcare, a hospitals group, by 31 March 1998 and so will not refer the acquisition to Bupa spent another £68m in 1996 buying Greenall's 30

Keith Bradshaw, the chairman of Care First, would not comment on the group's statement. Several other companies that have been linked to a possible bid for Care First denied

he was not interested in bid-



Slimmed-down Grampian starts to grow

As is the fashion these days Grampian has shed its old con- Edinburgh Woolfen Mill glomerate status, prompted by growing criticism from shareholders. Since it flogged off its known for storing Scotch pharmaceutical division to its management, Grampian's shares have certainly moved in the right direction.

And Grampian gave investors more to smile about vesterday when it announced and that is without having to it was looking to repurchase up to 10 per cent of its shares. It is a canny move given that debt chain is likely to continue levels are comfortable and the apace with another 25 stores deal will enhance earnings as long as it can keep repurchasing shares at less than 200p. Grampian is left with a

(EWM) chain, and a transport to strength. and warehouse business best whisky bottles.

Hardly sexy businesses, you may think. But analysts reckon the group should be able to achieve double-digit earnings growth for the next few years, splash out on acquisitions.

The expansion of the EWM opening this year and probably 30 next. Grampian's policy of opening shops in smaller towns and cities has met with

retail division centred on the success. The warehouse business is also going from strength

There are a short-term

problems. Warm weather in September has probably knocked sales of woolly jumpers and the strong pound is taking its toll on the number of tourists visiting its shops. That said, Grampian looks a solid long-term bet. The shares rose 8p to 157.5p yesterday as the group announced a rise in profits to £7.7m (£4.75m) for the half year to August. Collins Stewart forecasts full-year profits of £21.4m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e of 12. Good value.

Wescol proves it is as tough as steel

Wescol, the Halifax-based structural steel company, has given its investors an unnerving ride since the group came to the market in 1989. It was floated at the tail end of the building boom. The market promptly fell off a cliff, taking Shares in the company were punished earlier Wescol's shares with it. Priced at 85p, they sank this year when Cookson was wrong-footed by like a stone to a low of just 7.5p in 1993. Many overstocking in the electronics industry, some of its rivals didn't survive.

But since a refinancing in 1993 the company's fortunes have been recovering and it has now recorded five consecutive years of profit increase. This included yesterday's figures for the year to July which showed a 40 per cent increase to pany is poised for growth. £1.68m. The shares, though still not back to their float price, edged up 4.5p to a 71p, their high-showed overstocking in electronics is continuest for seven years.

One of the problems that has dogged the structural steel business is a chronic fragmentation of the market. But it is gradually consolidating and in June Wescol became the second-largest UK player when it paid £6.4m for Glosford Holdings. It now has 8 per cent of the market compared to the 12 per cent held by market leader Severfield-Reeve. The Glosford business is being integrated and, though some costs should be saved, the real benefit should be greater buying power. Wescol's order book is at record levels and the business has secured some prestigious contracts.

The future looks encouraging. The structural steel market is growing at 4 to 5 per cent a year and consolidation should work in favour of the big players which can bid for the largest contracts. Assuming full-year profits of £4.5m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 13. Not a around £175m-£180m. The shares, 11p ahead huge amount of upside left now, but still reasonable value.

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Signs of recovery at Cookson

Cookson has been through many false dawns, but yesterday's trading statement was the firmest indication yet that the building materials group is back on the recovery track. 40 per cent of the company. However, the group's interim figures in August, though hit hard by sterling, beat expectations, supporting promises from Richard Oster, Cookson's larger-than-life chief executive, that the com-

Yesterday's third-quarter trading statement ing to clear, with sales growth in the second quarter sustained, particularly in assembly equipment used, for example, to apply Cookson's adhesives. Though Europe remains tough and pricing is tight, margins are being maintained and business in the US is taking off.

Other areas also look promising. Demand for advanced refractories is still growing as fast as it was in the first half, engineered products improved further in the third quarter and precious metals is starting to contribute to profits.

Cookson expects to complete the sale of its flame-retardant antimony business, Anzon, in the fourth quarter and discussions are under way to sell the horticultural business. All that could raise some £80m-£90m. With the noncore parts out of the way, Cookson would have some £250m to spend on in-fill acquisitions.

Analysts are looking for full-year profits of at 261p are trading a forward earnings ratio of 15 times. That looks reasonably cheap.

Pringle to cut 290 jobs as pound hits overseas sales

Pringle of Scotland is in discussions with unions to cut 290 jobs after the strong pound has hit sales of its woolly sweaters in Germany and Japan. Pringle, which is part of Dawson International, said the rising pound had added 25 to 30 per cent to the cost of its sweaters, which are currently being shipped overseas for the selling season next year. Pringle exports 60 per cent of its production. The increased costs had reduced demand by some 20 per cent, forcing the company to cut jobs. The company employs 1,193 people, mainly in its Hawick and Berwick sites in Scotland, and said the jobs would go from all departments. A spokesman said that redundancies were the only way to safeguard existing jobs.

Accountants merge

Casson Beckman's London accountancy practice is to merge with Baker Tilly at the beginning of November. The merged firm - to be called Baker Tilly - will have a fee income of over £40m, around 100 partners, and 11 offices around the country. Clive Parritt, chairman of Baker Tilly, said the merger strengthened its position as a leading middle-tier firm. There is tremendous synergy, both culturally and strategically, in merging with Casson Beckman." Baker Tilly and Casson Beckman are both in the UK's top 20 firms of chartered

Alldays signs Donuts deal

Watson & Philip's convenience store division, Alldays Stores, has signed a franchise development agreement with Dunkin' Donuts, the Allied Domeco unit, to open and operate Dunkin' Donuts outlets throughout the South of England. Duakin' Donuts will be supplied to over 150 Alldays convenience stores. The chain also plans to open a number of stand-alone Dunkin' Donuts shops and a further 10 shopin-shop units. Colin Glass, chief executive of Watson & Philip, said the inclusion of Dunkin' Donuts "will help to drive our continued growth and profitability". Mr Glass said Alldays had opened its 700th store, in Thatcham, and was on course comfortably to exceed its forecast of 725 stores by the end of their financial year.

Agreed offer for Protean

Culligan Water Technologies yesterday announced an agreed 240p per share cash offer for Protean, which valued the company at £105m. Protean shareholders will be entitled to receive an interim dividend of 2p per share. Culligan said the offer represented a premium of 78 per cent to Protean's closing price of 135p on 17 September, the last dealing day before the company's announcement that it had received an approach which might lead to an offer. Culligan, a manufacturer and distributor of water purification and treatment products, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Protean is engaged in the manufacture, distribution and service of water purification equipment and analytical and thermal equipment for scientific, medical and industrial customers.

WPP revenues rise

WPP Group said revenues in the first nine months rose over 9 per cent while gross profit increased 9 per cent in constant currency terms. Acquisitions accounted for nearly 2 per cent of revenue growth. On average, sterling strengthened 11 per cent overall against other currencies in the same period last year and as a result reported revenues rose just over 1 per cent. Constant currency revenue growth in information and consultancy was up over 14 per cent, public relations and public affairs rose 11 per cent and specialist communications increased 11 per cent. Advertising revenues grew nearly 7 per cent.

Photobition bids for Novo

Photobition yesterday launched an agreed bid for Novo Group, which valued the group at £28.2m. One Photobition share will be offered for every 15 Novo shares, which values each Novo share at 52p. There is also a full cash alternative of 50p a share for each Photobition share. Photobition said its sales for the first two months of the current year were up 24 per cent compared with the previous corresponding period, and up 45 per cent on a like-for-like basis. The offer represented a premium of 26.8 per cent over Novo's midmarket closing share price on 16 September, the company said. Photobition is to raise £3m through a private placing.

German producer prices up

Producer prices in Germany during September rose 0.1 per cent month-on-month and were up 1.4 per cent from a year earlier, the Federal Statistics Office said yesterday. Economists' forecasts had ranged between a decline of 0.1 per cent to a rise of 0.2 per cent month on month and a rise of 1.2 to 1.6 per cent year on year. Germany's producer price index stood at 105.1 in September, up from 105.0 in August and from 103.6 in September 1996, the office said in a statement. In western Germany, producer prices were unchanged in September from August and were up 1.4 per cent from a year earlier. Eastern German prices were steady month on month, although they were up 1.9 per cent year on year.

Mirror renews bid for MIN

Mirror Group Newspapers said yesterday it had renewed its agreed offer for the 75 per cent of Midland Independent Newspapers that it did not already own, following Tuesday's bid clearance by the Government. Mirror Group said the cash offer represented a 41 per cent premium over MIN's midmarket closing share price on 16 June, before the initial bid was launched. The bid values the company as a whole at £297m, MIN announced profit before tax and exceptionals for the six months to the end of June of £13.6m, and an interim dividend of 2p per MIN share. The board of MIN has proposed a second interim dividend of 3p per MIN share.

ITC chief talks of wider role

Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, yesterday made a bid to change public perception of the television watchdog, by saying that the ITC dealt with economic regulation as well as programming issues. His comments, at the European Cable Communications conference, will be seen as another episode in the battle between the ITC and Oftel, the telecoms regulator, for control over communications regulation. The Government is reviewing the regulatory structure of the media industry, although the creation of a single monolithic regulator has been ruled out.

COMPANY RESULTS Turnover & Pre-tax & Dividend -0.186p (-0.085p) mil (-) 1.7m (-) -0.61m (**-0.33**m) Jana Patrolesso (I) 7.70m (8.88m) असम्बद्धाः । जन्मकृतिकः । 127m (121m) 4.78p (4.10p) 210p (1.91p) 1.68m (1.20m) Mescal Group (F) (F) - Final (f) - Interfer

Shareholders attack board at WH Smith annual meeting

faced hostile questions at the company's annual meeting in London yesterday. Questioners focused on the abrupt departure of the former chief executive, Bill Cockburn, and the search for his replacement. But the meeting ended with a protest by staff of the WH Smith News

division. Nigel Cope, City

Correspondent, reports.

The WH Smith board

Shareholders concentrated initially on the lacklustre performance of WH Smith and the problems caused by the sudden departure of Mr Cockburn, who left in the summer. One shareholder said: "I don't like. quitters and I was very disappointed in the way he has come and gone." The shareholder then added that in newspaper pictures the new chief executive Richard Handover "looked tired before he started".

In response, Smith's chairman, Jeremy Hardie, said of Mr Cockburn's decision to leave: "I was disappointed but you cannot glue people to the floor. We have no contract of slavery here." He added that he was confident Mr Handover was "the right person for the

Another shareholder said

the manner of the company's search for a successor "was something less than desirable". He asked whether the apparent indecision over who was the best candidate would be reflected by a resignation from the board.

Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays Bank who heads WH Smith's nominations committee, said that the committee had known "quite soon" that Mr Handover was the right person for the job but that it was important to seek benchmarks from outside the company. A former journalist, he went on to criticise the Press for making too much of the story.

Though Mr Hardie and Mr Handover handled most of the meeting calmly, the gathering became noisy in the final stages when representative of employees of the Smith's news division in Croydon launched a stinging attack on the board.

Jason Stentiford, the workers' union representative who had bought shares to attend the meeting, said the London division of WH Smith news was "on a knife edge" and struggling against competitors. He said workers were being forced to take pay cuts in order to

keep their jobs. Another worker said the Croydon news depot had been raided last week by police and officers from the Department of Social Security, who arrested suspected "illegal immigrants and dole queue cheats" who had been employed through

The employee claimed that "people were hiding under benches and two Russian fellas tried to get in the back of my van". He added: "The whole thing was a shambles and I was ashamed to be associated with WH Smith." Mr Hardie brought order to the meeting by refusing to take more ques-

tions on the matter. The meeting was prefaced by an upbeat trading statement from the Smith's. It showed that in the 20 weeks to 18 October group sales were up by 8 per cent on a like-for-like basis on the same period last year.

This included a 5 per cent gain in the core WH Smith retail chain, which has been at the root of Smith's problems. The figure included a 1 per cent uplift from the introduction of a loyalty card earlier this year. Waterstone's recorded a 9 per cent like-for-like sales uplift, while Virgin-Our Price sales were 10 per cent ahead.

Mr Handover said: "I am encouraged by the start to the year, although we still have much work to do, especially with the high street stores." The trading update lifted the shares 6p to 409.5p.

Analysts said the figures were encouraging. The company's top directors will embark on a series of meetings with institutional investors tomorrow. They will provide them will fuller details of the planned restructure which includes the demerger of Waterstone's and the sale of the music interests including Virgin-Our Price.

Insurers back down over use of genetic tests

making a surprise climb- the insurance industry for disdown over their right to demand the results of genetic tests after pressure from the Data Protection Registrar, reports Andrew Verity.

Leaked documents from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) reveal that insurers have backed away from the right to demand genetic test results in all cases. The documents also show that insurers will relinquish their right to "cherrypick", offering lower life insurance premiums to those who can prove, using genetic test results, that they stand less chance of dying young.

The documents, in the form of a draft code of practice for ABI members, propose that all applications for life insurance worth less than £100,000 will be considered without demanding genetic data. Previously, insurers had in-

sisted that they must know genetic test results even for policies worth less than this. But they promised they would not be used to turn away applicants for insurance, This stance drew accusations

from MPs and doctors that insurers would create a "genetic underclass" of people turned down for life insurance because of a faulty gene which may never even affect their

The House of Commons select committee on science and

Insurance companies are technology has also slammed regarding the importance of genetic tests to medical science. It said people would be deterred from taking part in genetic research for fear of being turned down when they applied for insurance.

The ABI has now changed its practice under pressure from the Data Protection Office, which questioned the right of an insurance company to hold genetic data which was not being used for a specific purpose. The Data Protection Reg-

istrar insisted that the data should not be kept on computer, even if it was disregarded when deciding whether to accept an insurance application. Until now, insurers have

raised the spectre of bankruptcy unless they can see all genetic data. Actuaries have claimed that customers who know they will die early would be given an incentive to take out giant life assurance policies, triggering a rash of expensive claims. But some insurers, such as Standard Life, have relinquished their right to demand any genetic data, no matter how large the policy. Assistant general manager Peter Robertson believes the dangers have been overplayed.

Mr Robertson said: "In the past two months we have underwritten approximately 80,000 policies. Of those we have only seen 14 cases where someone might have had a genetic test. Only one, who had already contracted Huntington's disease, was turned

Investment performances under review

The City's new regulator, which will be launched and christened next Tuesday, is expected to help protect investors by forcing companies to give more information on poorly performing savings schemes.

The new regulator is expected to propose wide-ranging changes to a pivotal reform introduced in early 1995 designed to allow investors to compare savings schemes from different investment firms.

The reform, called "hard disclosure", was intended to stimulate competition between investment firms by disclosing to customers the effect of the firms' charges on the products they bought.

But one of the heads of the new regulator, Phillip Thorpe, argues the regime is so complicated that most investors cannot compare prices.

Mr Thorpe, who will head consumer relations at the new regulator, said: "Right now the question of disclosing performance is very much a commercial matter.

"One of the things that ought to be expected is that proper like-for-like comparisons are possible." in particular, while insur-

ance companies and investment managers must disclose their charges, they need not disclose poor investment perfor-The cheapest charges reduce

the growth of investments by just 1 per cent a year. Yet the poorest performing

investments frequently reduce that growth by 5 per cent. - Andrew Verity

People & Business, page 28

Asda ruled out as bidder for Etam

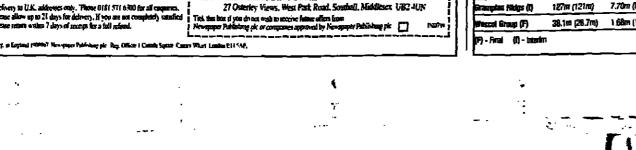
City analysts yesterday dismissed suggestions that Asda, the supermarket group, might be interested in bidding for Etam, the struggling clothing retailer. Though Asda refused to comment on what it described as "market rumour" one analyst said Asda would not be interested in buying a high street chain with high rents and a weak brand.

George range of clothing into the UK's second largest clothing brand after M&S. But its strategy is to use large stores where it can offer a wide product range using systems that benefit from economies of scale. One analyst said: "The George brand needs to be out of town and it needs to be twinned to Asda."

Etam announced last week Asda is keen to build its that it was in talks that may lead

to an offer. Three companies have tabled proposals with New Look, the privately-owned fashion chain tipped as the most likely buyer. Etam is due to report its results on 6 November and is expected to make a statement on the sale by then.

New Look has admitted that it is seeking a stock market listing. It attempted to float in 1994 but failed due to poor market conditions.

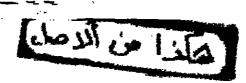


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Perplexed traders want changes to order-driven system



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

MARKET REPORT

Pressure is growing on the Stock Exchange to make changes to its order-driven system, introduced on Monday.

The volatility of share prices, the wide spreads on the order book and the appearance of spooky trades, such as a buy order for 19 RMC, created confusion and irritation, fuelling demands that changes should be agreed over next Monday.

Around 40 per cent of an 8,434 trade at 908.8p. Footsie trading yesterday was completed on the order book with the rest handled by market-makers.

It seems US institutions, already familiar with the syswith the new order but there is a distinct reluctance on the

Traders complained that it its best it was up 31.7 points, that the shares were destined tralia and New Zealand will be ment from leisure goods group was often impossible to deal in reflecting New York's to hit 1,400p. Standard Charsucked into the maelstrom

Hawtin lowered the shares Footsie shares. One cited 500,000 trades in Hays and Railmack, because of the lop-

sided nature of the system. Building materials group RMC was given a screen clos-ing price of 907p, the level of a 2,650 order-driven trade just before the market closed. At trading and closing prices. the same time a 160,000 trade

It is felt the Stock Exthe weekend and put in force at 920p was recorded; so were change should address the a 20,000 trade at 933.5p and

Because of the price volatility, friction is often occurring between broker and is that the smallest trade trades are completed; prices shares. move so quickly, so steeply that tem, are conducting most of many a broker is having a hard evident in stock market trad-

part of British players to get dilemma; movements were tumbling 89p to 1,766p and

overnight strength. By mid afternoon it was down 100.4; at the close it was off 77.1 at 5,148.8.

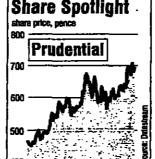
Most reckoned the fall should have been no more than 20 points; indicating the confusion over order-driven

problem of maverick trades. The 19 RMC order should not have appeared; the minimum deal is £4,000. One suggestion client over the prices at which should be lifted to 10,000

· Hong Kong worries were their business in accordance time justifying the price he ing. With the former colony's shares again in retreat, evasive Footsie underlined their action was taken with HSBC

tered was caught by the wall of worry, giving up 30p to 716p. Cable & Wireless lost 27p to

Warnings that Hong Kong interest rates will be forced higher and speculation of financial problems in Pacific Rim countries are adding to the disarray. Fears that Aus-



Prudential Corporation, named and shamed over pension mis-selling, was the fourth best Footsie performer - at least judging by the closing prices appearing on the screen. The shares were shown up 12.5p at 697p.

Amersham International. now Nycomed Amersham. rose a further 80p to 2,500p.

jumped 39p to 238p as US group Culligan produced a 240p cash offer and picked up Cookson, with an asexpected trading statement, rose 11p to 261p. An analysis meeting today may have 138.5p as the presence of a aroused much of the interest. possible predator was re-Vodafone was hit by US selling, off 5.5p to 352.5p, and

SmithKline Beecham suffered a 26p reverse to 582p when Lehman Brothers said it preferred Zeneca, off 10p at

TAKING STOCK Rarely traded Gresham

2.5p to 27.75p but Winchester

MultiMedia gained 13p to

101.5p on the reported success

rose 7p to 129.5p on far-

fetched speculation of a bid

from Asda, up 1p to 155.5p.

7 per cent in the market. Care

First, the troubled nursing

homes group, improved 23p to

vealed. Another in takeover

sights, Premier, a recruitment

chain, jumped 43p to 215.5p.

ing recruitment and training

ahead of a UBS conference on

services, rose 17p to 249p

Corporate Services, offer-

Etam, the fashion chain,

Protean, an engineer.

of its film, Shooting Fish.

House enjoyed a day in the limelight. The shares rose 8p to 22p, highest for five years. The group has the dubious distinction of being the first investment trust ever to have a negative value. It is slowly recovering and has just declared its first dividend since 1990. The trust owns commercial property in and around Liverpool and an odd assortment of shares. It is, bowever, unlikely to recapture its glory days; 10 years ago, on Black Monday,

Incepta, the acquisitive marketing and public relations group, is set to achieve profits of £5.3m this year against £1.6m last time. say stockbroker Beeson Gregory. Next year's out-turn should be around £6m. The

the shares were riding at a

650p peak.

	part of British players to get involved.	dilemma; movements were often more than 10 points. At	tumbling 89p to 1,766p and forecasts going the rounds	400 NDJFMAMJJASO	2,220p. A downbeat trading state-	ahead of a UBS conference on the business support industry.	should be around £6m. The shares shaded to 22p.
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The evidence of a slowdown is thin: interest rates need to rise



DIANE COYLE ON THE NEED TO KEEP THE LID ON **INFLATION**

teenage scribblers were looking out for the first signs of the green shoots of economic recovery. Five years on, and many of the still-youthful analysts are eager to spot the falling leaves of autumn. Each piece of news is seized and scrutinised for evidence that the slowdown has started

Even last week's unemployment figures gave the brownflawed claimant count measure, joblessness fell to the widely trusted survey measure, it fell to the lowest for seven years. The difference between the two was accounted for by the fact that more women have economy and number of jobs have grown, leaving male unemployment on both measures at the lowest for nearly two the private sector had created

nearly 700,000 new jobs. Were the figures, along with

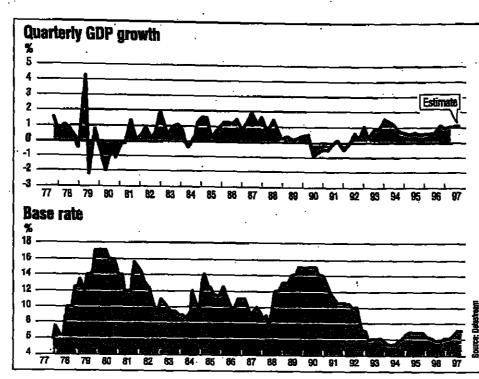
signs of slowing." This is a spectacular case of seeing the world through grey-tinted spectacles. For the British economy has not been in such good shape for decades. GDP has increased every quarter since mid-1992, and at a far steadier pace than in the last recovery. The jobs market is expanding to the extent that skills shortages are re-emerging. Figures tomorrow are expected to show GDP growth at an annualised rate of 4 per cent or more in the

July-September quarter. Even the supposed weak spot, exports, which everybody expected to be hammered by the strong pound, are still growing. There's no doubt manufacturing is sluggish, but it is nowhere near the recessionary doldrums -Once upon a time all the City's and besides, it is dwarfed by the rest of the economy.

Most of the economic forecasts emerging from the City actually reflect this reality in a way that the scribblers' rhetoric does not. The average shows growth slowing from 3.5 per cent this year to 2.5 per cent GDP growing next year by more than the 2.25 per cent the Treasury uses as an estimate of the ibility it would be if the Bank Richard Jeffrey, chief economist £360n has shown up in higher releaf tendency an excuse. On the sustainable trend. So even if the cycle is near its peak and growth slows next year, 1998 will mark cause of a climate of opinion lowest for 17 years. On the more the sixth year that the British that the economy is slowing. economy has expanded by more

than its long-run average. There is a catch, of course, inflation. The reason it matters are talking down the economy Policy Committee (MPC) failfuture inflation.

With its new responsibility ber of unfilled vacancies and a Bank is naturally alert to pub-3.3 per cent jobless rate in the lic opinion. Its new role can only South-east, taken as a sign of the be sustained if it wins the hearts strength of the economy? Why, and minds of the people. Techno. One rival newspaper even nically, it also has a looser inannounced: "Economy shows flation target than under the last



government. The aim is now a Committee bought the argurange of 1.5 to 3.5 per cent, with either end acceptable to the Chancellor, rather than the next year. Only a handful see previous target of "2.5 per cent or less". But what a waste of a five-year attempt to build credwere deterred from raising interest rates early enough be-

The autumnal chorus of City economists is indeed urging the Bank to focus on the bits of and that is the prospect of month-by-month information that offer the slightest hint the entered the workforce as the that so many commentators economy might just be starting to slow - like that 27,800 drop is that there is a danger of the in unemployment claims last Bank of England's Monetary month, because it is less than the 49,800 drop the previous decades. In the year to August ing to raise interest rates month The CBI and British Reenough to keep the lid on tail Consortium surveys for September retail sales are also dragooned as evidence, even others showing a record num- for interest rate policy, the though neither has a clear link with official figures for retail sales volumes. And the clinching argument is thought to be

started to accelerate.

the fact that inflation has not

ment? Its last published minutes, for September, concluded that the evidence did not point "conclusively" in either direction, and it also left interest rates unchanged this month. But as at Charterhouse Tilney and a robust defender of the strong economy view, puts it: "Once the evidence is conclusive, my mum could set interest rates.

the anticipation of events." Many other City economists would loudly disagree. But their own forecasts point to the target measure of inflation heading up by the end of next year. The average is 3 per cent, near the top of the Chancellor's range. The lags are such that if the Bank does not raise interest rates again this year, inflation

The art of economic policy is in

Has the Monetary Policy if the inflation target is to be met slams on the brakes.

over time. Whatever the plethora of surveys claim, the hard figures show a buoyant economy.

There is more windfail spending to come, too. The Office for National Statistics reckons that about £500m of the tail sales so far. A bit more will have gone into the housing market. There is a lot left burning holes in peoples' bank accounts. As for the survey predicting that only £4bn would be spent altogether, what would anybody say to a researcher asking if they were going to be sensible and save or go on an irresponsible spending spree? We all mean to spend less than we do.

Not even the severest hawk would claim that there is a risk of returning to double-digit inflation. It is a matter of raising interest rates to perhaps 7.5 per will breach the target in 1999. cent or 8 per cent this cycle -If there has been a hint of a less than half their peak in preslowdown in the recent eco- vious business cycles. But if they nomic statistics, it's about time. do not go up soon, the false The cost of borrowing has, after slowdown will be supplanted by all, gone up four times since a genuine recession when the 1 May. But a hint is not enough Bank of England belatedly

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

PATERSON



Talk about Daniel entering the lions' den. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has agreed to give this year's Spectator lecture in a couple of weeks' time. As if speaking in this traditional haven of fogyish Tory and sometimes extreme Eurosceptic views wasn't enough, it seems that Mr Brown is planning to deliver on the theme of Britain's post-imperial place in the world. Despite his recent about-turn on the single currency, Mr Brown sees this very much in terms of helping to shape Europe's future, of bringing New Labour's own particular mix of free-market Anglo-Saxon economics and social welfare to the EU party. How this will go down with his Spectator-invited audience is anyone's guess, but fireworks look guaranteed.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor's hectic schedule will next Tuesday see him spoil the fun and games of devising acronyms for super-SIB, the new financial services regulator, by proudly announcing the organisation's name. So those few lucky staff at the City's current regulators who are sure that they will have a job next year are finally going to find out precisely what authority they will be working for.

Not long after Mr Brown's announcement - probably some time around next January super-SIB's staff will sign contracts with their new boss, Howard Davies. The regulator will then start its vital work immediately. Or

Unfortunately, it could take years. Insiders describe the merger, which incorporates nine current regulators, as "hideously complicated". Aside from the difficulties of finding an acronym to encapsulate SIB, PIA, Imro, SFA, Bank of England, Department of Trade and Industry, Building Societies Commission. Register of Friendly Societies and Friendly Societies' Commission, there are the more fundamental problems, not only of structuring the new body, but also of deciding exactly where super-SIB's staff are going to reside.

The designated site is in London's Docklands at 25 North Colonnade. However, the building is no more than a shell right now. Sources say that fitting it up is going to take at least until next July. So it seems as though staff will remain dotted around London as they begin their mammoth task of regulating the City, which is hardly a recipe for good communications. But, as Mr Brown insists, it will all be worth it in the end; no doubt everything will turn out just fine.

Mary Samuel Comment

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THE STATE OF BRIDE

Best of luck to BZW equity strategist Richard Kersley, who jets off next week to take part in the New York Marathon. He'll be running up and down the Big Apple with his colleague, Steve Wright, who apparently makes a habit of this sort of madness, and various members of his family. The smart money has Kersley, who admits to never having run more than 20 miles, completing the marathon in around four hours, with Wright showing him a clean pair of heels to finish in less than three. Much gallows humour was prompted around the For Sale signs at the office by the strategists' plan to raise money from the run for endangered species. Fat-cat clients of BZW, or anyone else for that matter, can phone in their sponsorship on 0171-773 4305.

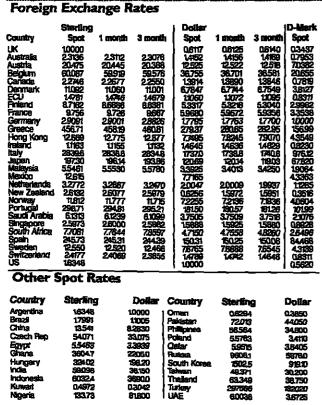
Marjorie Scardino, installed as chief executive of media conglomerate Pearson earlier this year, made a late entrance at WH Smith's annual meeting yesterday, where she sits on the board as a non-executive director. Jeremy Hardie, Smiths' chairman, told the 150 shareholders that she had been held up in traffic. In fact, it was a little worse than that. It seems that Mrs Scardino's car was involved in an accident on the way in, though she emerged unscathed from the prang.

There has been speculation, of course, that Mrs Scardino has had enough of being on the Smiths board as it has become too timeconsuming. She dismissed this wholeheartedly yesterday, saying she was staying on and enjoying it. "Richard [Handover, the new chief executive] has really energised things and it's going to be an interesting time." So there.

Gone are the times when the only hope an employee had of reaching the dizzy heights of managing directorship was through 40 years or so of loyal service.

Nowadays a couple of years of financial wizardry seems to do the trick. Goldman Sachs yesterday announced that it was adding a whopping 126 new managing directors to its ranks, giving a grand total of 410 world-wide. Neither are grey hairs a pre-requisite these days. The majority of Goldman's MDs are under the age of 40.

According to the official press release, the new MDs "are an outstanding group of individuals whose contributions help distinguish Goldman Sachs as a premier global investment bank". Lesser mortais are merely granted the title of vice-president.



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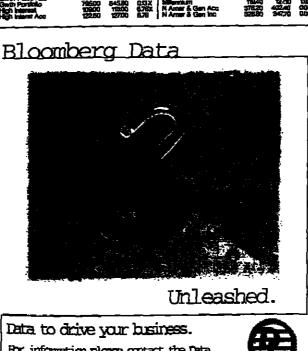
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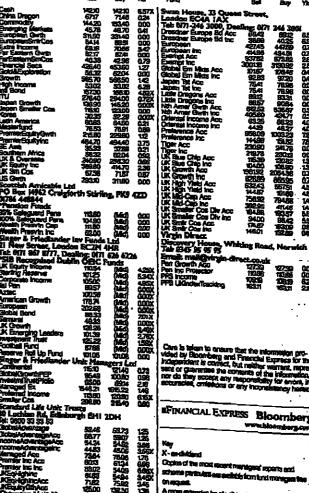




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Mr Mulligan resumes quest to join the legends

lethargy of 12 months ago fol-

lowing a summer at the Bristol

farm of his owner, Michael

Worcester. The swollen joints he

incurred on Cheltenham's un-

usually bony ground in March

the Folly House yard of his

trainer, Noel Chance, in early

August and has not missed a day

of exercise, entirely thanks to

the new all-weather gallop at

Lambourn. Noel says his charge

is in spiffing form, but then he

Mr Mulligan returned to

have repaired themselves.

Wincanton plays host to two of racing's most famous names today in Lester Piggott and Desert Orchid. But as Richard Edmondson reports the real star of the show could turn out to be the Gold Cup winner, Mr Mulligan.

The jumps season starts in effect today when the entertainment on offer just off the B3081 in Somerset supersedes anything the Flat can throw at us. Charity race day at Wincanton. in aid of the Injured Jockeys' Fund and the Mark Davies Injured Riders' Fund, has so many attractions that the prospect of putting rubble under your rear wheels at the pitch-black close of play in order to escape the course is less dispiriting than normal.

The youngest luminaries on the programme are Lester Pig-

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE 2.00: 1. LOVE ACADEMY (S Sanders) 10-11 tay; 2. Ryefield 11-2; 3. Anvil 9-2; 13 ran. 11/4, 2. (M. Johnston, Middleham). Tota: \$180; \$120; \$180; \$180; Dual Forecast; \$430.

250, 123, 120, 120 Due rorocest; 9430 CSF: 5594. Tho: 5230, 2.35: 1. FROND (K Darley) 6-1; 2. Astropi 13-8 tex; 3. Surremer Deal 9-2. 10 ran. 1/s, 2. (L. Current, Newmarket). Toxi: 5230, 5250, 5150, 5140, DF: 5140, CSF: 51500

3.05: 1. ALWAYS ALIGHT (J.F.Egan) 11-1; 2 Mouche 14-1; 3. Alumietych 71-2; 4. King Lino 8-1 20 ran. 5-1 fav Coutle Bource (5th) nk. 11/h. (K. Burke, Wantage) Tota: \$1600; \$270, \$450, \$250, \$240, DF: \$5060.

CSF: E5123 Tricast: E99699, Tric: E71240.
3.35: 1. ON THE GREEN (Dals Gibson)
12-1; 2. Southern Mannories 14-1; 3. Bella's Legacy 13-2; 4. Dispoi Gern 7-1. 18
ran. 9-2 fav Trojan Hero (8th), 2. 3/s. (A Hide.
Newmarket). Tote: £15.50; £3.40, £3.50,
£170, £2.00. DF: £16.480, CSF: £5.298, Tricast: £13144 Tric: £74.870, NP. Lester8. 2010 17: Fibasic CSF: Fibasic In-cast £13144 Trio: £34870 NFL LocksIL 4.10: 1. MENGO PARK (J Fortune) 8-1; 2. Sue Me 12-1; 3. Mon Bruce 6-1 ji-far; 4. Southern Dominion 6-1 ji-far, 20 ran. 3, 2. (Mrs J Ramsdan, Thirsk), Totas £870; £210, £350, £210, £200. DF: £6690 CSF: DESE Trions CSF: This August 1 £95.35. Tricast: £590.85. Trio: £148.90. 4.40: 1. VANADIUM ORE (J Wazer) 25-1; 2. Essayetisee 15-2; 3. Broctune Line 25-1; 4. Clued Up 16-1. 19 ran. 11-4 fav Musra Bay (5th). 11/4, nk. (W McKeown, New-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Galatasori Jane (Wincanton 3.00) NR: Teran (Wincanton 4.00)

castle) Tota: £30.70; £360, £150, £150, £360, £3 £442.27, Trio: £81.20.

1: 2. Stormiese 12-1; 3. Lepu-Lapu 6-1; 4. Fighting Times 11-4 fav. 20 ram. 1, nk. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Tota: £1150; £210, £290, £150, £220. DF: £7890. CSF: £1834. Tricast: £676.28, Trio: £305.90 Hose teroes, the Establia Jackpot not won (pool of \$92,23727 car-ried forward to Brighton today). Place 6: \$39,35. Place 5: \$155.91.

YARMOUTH 2.10: 1. MOUNT HOLLY (L Dettori) 4-1; 2. Marozie 33-1; 3. Regel Thunder 18-1; 14 ran. 13-8 is Assaiable (4th), M. 5. (J Gosden, Newmarkel), Tote: 54-90; £130, £700, £560. DF: £178-40, CSF: £132-4. Tho:

245: 1. SICK AS A PARROT (M HE) 9-2; 2. Middle Temple 6-1; 3. Elekik 6-1. 12 ran. 3-1 fav Bahamian Melody. hd. 21/2. ast: £23216. Trio: £5460. 3.15: 1. ANJOU (K Falon) 5-2 tav; 2. Arti 4-1; 3. Charite Bigtims 12-1. 11 ran. 11/4. 31/h. (J Peante, Newmarket). Tota: £320:

3/h, (J Pearce, Newmarket), Tota: C320; C200, C230, C220. DF: C550. CSF: 2f138. Tricast: S9488. Trio: C2540. 3.45: 1, TOBLERSONG (L Dettori) 2.1 fav; 2. Dernier Croise 20-1; 3. Half-Hitch 9-2 7raz. ½, r.½, (R Alshusz, Epson) Tota: C280; C140, S400. DF: C3580. CSF: C3787.

hd, 1%. (R Armstrong, Newmarket). Tota: £5.30; £1.70, £2.10, £1.40. DF: £16.00. CSF: \$36.87, Trio: \$18.50. 4.50: 1, MISBAH (FI HEs) 7-2; 2. Chastten 10-1; 3. Cepteln Ten 11-8 fax. 13 ran. 1/s, 4. (8 Hanbury, Newmarket). Tota: 5540; 5200, 5200, 510. DF: \$1670. GSF:

£35.72. Trio: £18.70. 5.20: 1. FAHS (A Clark) 9-1; 2. Kamin 7-1; 3, Zugueti 7-2 iau, 13 ran. sht-hd, 21%. (R Akehurst, Epsom). Tota: £890; £450. £270, £160, DF: £3510, CSF: £7025. Tric-

EXETER 2.20: 1. REVER CHALLENGE (R Supple) 2-20: 1, FRYER CHALLENGE (F. SUPRE)
8-1; 2. Lomberdic Evens fav; 3. Norlandic
14-1. 10 ran. 2. 7. (John R. Upson). Tota:
1140; 52-40. E131, E210. DE: 1650. CSF:
1873. Tito: E1080. Grey Smoke (8-1) withtrawn not under orders; Rule 4 explies to all bets, deduction 25p in the pound.
2-55: 1. DESTANT STORBIG (8 Powel) 1612. Destant 3-1 fav; 3. Stankford Ladv.

1; 2. Damas 2-1 fav. 3. Stapleford Lady 9-1-10 ma. 14, 4, (3 Lienethm) Tota: £1500; £430, £120, £250 DF. £2430 CSF: £4430. Tricast: £29205. Tho: £14220, NR: Persian 3.25: 1. DR LEUNT (R Dunwoody) 4-7

3.25: 1. DR LEUNT (R Durwood) 4-7 the; 2. Millicroft Regards 50-1; 3. Tour Leader \$6-1, 7 ran, 8. 1% (P Hobbs), Total £140; £160; £160; £170, DF: £2510; CSF: £2129, 3.55: 1. THE BRIEWER (R Bellemy) 7-1; 2. The Minder 15-1; 3. Biethchhorn Bard 7-2 fax, 13 rin, 1, 11. (J Tuck), Total £230; £240; £340, £250, DF: £5430; CSF: £9842 Treast: £640-72. This: £140-70.
4.30: 1. KIEEP ME: IN MINO (C Maurich), 4-1; 2. Cansarm Boy 5-1; 3. Tight First 13-1; Times 5-2 fay Rouselle, Ind. 4. (N Michel), Total: £320; £330, £580, £190, DF: £4320. CSF: £7044. Tricast: £13810. This: £58.70. Amended result: following a stewards in-CSF: EMUR. Incest: Essett first past the past results flowing a stawards inquiry Cassarra Boy, who was first past the past, was demoted to second place.

5.00: 1. TRUTCHEV (A Magure) 9-4 fav.,

2. It's Wallace 25-1; 3. Effectual 5-2. 11 ras., 15, 11 (O Nicholson). Total: \$4.20; \$1.50. \$2.80, \$2.10. \$1.50. \$2.80, \$2.10. \$1.50. \$1.

Phospot 8080 Quadpot 52230. Place 6: 0172 Place 5: 03463.

Kilimanjaro, trained by Michael Stoute, has been made favourite by Ladbrokes for the Racing Post Trophy at Doneaster on Saturday. The colt is their 7-2 market leader, with Aidan O'Brien's Saratoga Springs at 4-1. Lathrokes betting: 7-2 Kili-maniaro, 4-1 Saratoga Springs, 9-2 Mudeer & Mutamam, 6-1 Little Indian, 7-1 Craigsteel, 8-1 Mountain Song, 12-1 Quiet Assurance.

gott's son, Jamie, and Lord Oaksey's grandson, Alfie Bradstock, who will ride ponies to general ambivalence in an exercise which will at least keep two old men happy. Lester has got a recurrence of a hand injury, probably the one worn out by accepting presents, and does not ride in the celebrity race. However, bottom and back of legends will be in close proximity when the Long Fellow partners the grey borse in a parade. (If you cannot decipher either of these noms de plume

you're on the wrong page). The exhausted grey athlete is well into the veteran phase of life now and limits his public appearances to all-expenses-paid flypasts around the country's racecourses. It's the same sort of life for Desert Orchid. Piggott and Dessie will prance around before the Desert Orchid South Western Pattern Chase, which will be illuminated by another Gold Cup winner,

the incumbent Mr Mulligan. This is the orange horse's

first outing since the big day and he faces just four rivals including Gabish, who is 75lb out of the handicap. In theory Mr Mulligan should be able to give him a race if a flat apprentice joins Tony McCoy on his back for the 2m5f journey.

Mr Mulligan greeted us with a shocker on his seasonal debut last year, when a poisoned foot was cured only late on in his preparation for Chepstow's Rehearsal Chase. The nine-yearold is showing little of the

Derby-winner Benny retired to stud

This year's Derby winner, Benny The Dip, has run his last race, the colt's trainer, John Gosden, announced yesterday. The son of Silver Hawk gave Gosden and his jockey, Willie Ryan, their first victory in the Classic when he beat Silver Patriarch and Pat Eddery by a short head.

After placed efforts behind Pilsudski and Singspiel in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes at

Sandown in July and York's Juddmonte International the following month, he was prepared for the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket last Saturday. before a possible tilt at the Breeders' Cup Turf at Hollywood Park on 8 November.

But after running a disappointing sixth of seven to Pilsudski at Newmarket, Benny The Dip has been retired to stud

at Claiborne Farm, Kentucky following consultation between Gosden and the colt's American owner, Landon Knight.

nomical or dissemble whatever

tenham last season Mr Mulligan

was transported to Newbury as

part of his preparation. During

a routine canter McCoy may

have wondered if someone had

substituted his mount with

something pink and squealing.

"He worked terribly and the

lead horse would have beaten

him half the track if we'd let

him," Chance said, "I was seri-

In the build-up to Chel-

it is they do in Parliament.

Ryan paid the colt a rich tribute. "As a small child you grow up wanting to win the Derby and he provided me with that, the Derby win that every jockey would love. When I needed him he dug deep," he

couldn't let the horse down. I told McCoy not to worry about it and that he wasn't always that bad. I would sort the press.

"McCoy told me: Tm going to have to tell them that I'm happy. But I'm [adjective deleted] not."

The chestnut himself usually gives punters a clue about the state of his well being. If he shakes his head violently when he goes out on to the course he's going to run well. Chance is just happy to get

the caravan back on the road. He hopes Mr Mulligan has retained the ability to sweep round a race track deceptively quickly. "He's the sort of horse that when he's fit I like to run him because so much can go wrong with horses," the trainer said. "You never think he's doing much on the gallops and even in his races he doesn't appear to be going too quickly. He just grinds on and on and on with relentless galloping."

This is a debut and final prep

has been known to be eco- ously disappointed but I race for Mr Mulligan, who goes next for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. Then it will be back to Cheltenham for a sighter followed by the Festival and what has become the near impossible mission of trying to retain

the Gold Cup.

Chance has done a bit of homework when it comes to suggestions that the Gold Cup he has already collected did not amount to much. "The form book will tell you that the second horse [Barton Bank] went on to win the Martell Cup and the third horse [Dorans Pride] won a Grade One in Ireland," he said. "Cyborgo and Unguided Missile also won races and I've no doubt in my mind that if Imperial Call had won by nine lengths it would have been

exalted stratosphere and he too will be invited to the sort of celebrity shindig we will witness in Somerset this afternoon.

4.30 GARETH & JESSICA CHARLES-JONES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £6,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

- 6 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Mutual Agreement, 3-1 Spring To it, 7-2 Trust Deed, 4-1 Staunch Rivel, 11-2 Hill-

1995: Special Account 10 11 1 B Fenton 14-1 (C Barvell) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

Trust Deed best Staumah Rivel three and a half lengths over course and distance this month and they should practically dead-heat with the second's 31b pull MUTIALL AGREE-MENT can master them both. The selection, after winning his first two starts this season, at Newton Abbot and Fontwell, turned in an abyernal deplay in Persian View's race at Hereford last month but showed that was too bad to be true when one of the favourities and regaining the winning thread at Exeter a formight ago, Spring To it, a useful long-distance hundler in 1991-92, finished a distance clear of the third when runner-up to The Goopher at Newton Abbot last month on his responsance. He was third when market leader for the amstern's contest won by Solo Gent at Huntingdon and will benefit from Tony McCoy's essistance. Bob Buckler's Irish acquisition Hillihead scored by a distance at Downpatrick in August and can go well.

Selection: MUTUAL AGREEMENT

5.00 FIONA BROWN MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

Local treiner Paul Nicholis, who also has charge of Gelatasori Jane and Mutual Agreement, can complete a tracie with MRS EM, even if she is making her first appearance in handicap company. The mare won four off the reel last term, two over course and dis-

tance, before finding Go Native three lengths too good in a slowly run three-runner rape at Aintree in May. Nichols will have her fit despite a 160-day absence. Indian Jocksy won eight in a row last season, seven of them over tences, and he could give Mrs Em plenty to do even if he does have to concade the mare 10th. Beacon Flight work in first time to bet term at his whitehap and is beneated in could be more that the true state.

5.30 K. J. PIKE AND SONS CELEBRITY FLAT RACE

- 10 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Hillswick 9st 5lb, Out OI The

4.50 GRETE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f

FFFUV MIOSSINGER (915) R Simpson 10 10 12 __Mr A Midd

5.20 CLUN INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

DIAMOND HALL (197) (D) K Burle 4 Ti 10.... B McGann (7)

AUTUMN BLUNDER A Caucil 5 ti 4 . Michael Brennan (3)

11F1-2 NORTHERN STARLIGHT (10) (D) M Pipe 6 10 12. C Meude

Sive Set 40. BETTING: 4-1 Hillandok, 9-2 Skalant Culburst, 5-1 Regenalt, 6-1 Khallich 7-1 Sancy Nun, Sweat Ciseaux, Dauphin Blac, 8-1 others

ary. Sallen won at Plumpton and was placed in his five other starts last term but wo

1896: Speciel Account 10 11 1 B Fenion 14-1 (C Barwell) 7 ran.

the best Gold Cup in history."

CRICKET

Australian players may go on strike

Talks between the Australian Cricket Board and the Australian players' association over rights and salaries broke down yesterday and a players' strike is now possible.

The ACB chief executive, Mal Speed, believed that the board was totally justified in rejecting a proposal on wages and conditions from the Australian Cricketers' Association.

The Association president, Tim May, a former Test player, said his group had been seeking a meeting with the board for several weeks and requested the ACB to reveal its financial position.

The association says cricketers are not receiving a big If he wins another Gold enough percentage of profits Cup Mr Mulligan will enter an : made from domestic Sheffield Shield and other matches. It wants higher payments for Shield players in particular, many of whom earn only around £10,000 per season.

The two parties met for about two hours on Tuesday night and May said the association presented its proposal over terms and conditions to the board at the end of that meeting. He said a further meeting yesterday afternoon between the parties lasted only 30 seconds, enough time for the board to read a statement to the association officials.

They entered the room and read from a statement, basically saying the negotiations were concluded," May said. "We're extremely disappointed."

May would not rule out strike action. "It's an option," He said, "It's something no one particularly wanted to think about prior to this meeting."

Speed said the board feels that the association demands could put the "future of Sheffield Shield cricket at risk and affect club cricket throughout the country." Sri Lankan cricket faced a scandal vesterday over an allegation that a cricket board official had asked for money from a television firm for broadcasting rights. Sports Minister S B Dissanayake said the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka should launch an inquiry after television firm WorldTel claimed an official had demanded \$100,000 (£630,000) for exclusive rights to all international matches in Sri Lan-

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

SECOND ROUND FIRST LEG
Tronseo IL. (Nor) v Chelege (8.05)
Other See Sermins Electen (8.05) v VIS
Stuttgart (Ger) (5.30); Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
v Konselspor (6.1) (5.01; Shafridar Donstals (Un)
v Vicenza, rth, (8.01; Reis Bells; (So) v FC
Coperhagen (Danit; ASK Atlane (Dr) v Sturn
Graz (Aur) (80); Nice (Fr) v Stavin Prague (72;
Red) (8.30); Primorja Adouscana (Sloven) v Roda
JC Kertrada (Natri) (8.30).
FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division:
Dundals v Drogheda Und (7.45).
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Everior
v Userpool (70); League Cup Group Timite: Derby v Walsand (70) (The Sasobaid Group)
FAI YOUTH CLIP Third qualifying round:
Grat Walsaring Rovers v Kings Lyrin SECOND ROUND FIRST LEG

Basketball

BUOWEISER LEAGUE; Leicester Ridere v Der-by Storm (80)

Speedway INDIVIDUAL: 16-Lapper, ipswich (730).

Other sports

TENNIS: Maureen Connolly Trophy. GB women's U-21s v US women's U-21s (Manchester). Glirobank Tour event (Taunton).

TODAY'S NUMBER

120m

The amount in dollars (£75m) that the US Soccer Federation will earn from a new sponsorship deal with Nike. Under the agreement, the sportswear manufacturer is backing the USSF's Project 2010, its plan to boost the game in the US with the aim of winning the World Cup by the end of the next decade.

-		
THE INDEP	END	ENT
RACING S	ERVI	CES
10891 2	261	+
LIVE COMMENT	RIES	ESULTS
BRIGHTON	971	981
WINCANTON	972	982
LUDLOW	973	983
0891 26	RESUL	TS O
Cata cast 30p per secrete. U.S.	pic. Screen	SI E(2), 471

WINCANTON

HYPERION 4.00 GALES CAVALIER (nep) 2.05 Lonicera 2.30 Royal Action 3.00 Galatasori Jane

4.30 Mutual Agreement 5.00 Mrs Em 3.30 Royal Barge

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Right-hand, galoping course, Run-in of 200yd.

Course is NE of town on B3091. Templecombe station (service from London, Waterloo) 4m. ADMISSION: Members \$12.50 (Junior Members, 17 to 22 years, £7); Tattersalls \$3 (Students £4); Course (and care to course) £4. (Under-15s free Info all enclosures). 23 (Students 14); Course (and cars to course) £4. (Under-16s free info all enclosures). CAR PARIK: Free.

• LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe - 33 winners from 121 numers gives a success ratio of 273%. P Nicholis 23-17 (197%). P Hobbe 14-68 (143%). R Hodges 12-108 (113%).

• LEADING 176 (197%). P Nicholis 23-17 (197%). P Hobbe 14-68 (143%). R Hodges 12-108 (113%).

• LEADING 30-17 (197%). P Nicholis 23-17 (197%). P Nicholis 23

SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m

- 10 declared BETTING: 7-4 Urgent Swift, 11-4 Lonicera, 5-1 Bellindur, 10-1 Gunner B Special, 20-1 Portock Castie, Rocky's Profiles, Lastothichiakonsys, 33-1 others
1996: Rosengrantz 4 11 4 R Johnson 5-1 (Mass V Williams) 14 ran
FORM GUIDE

Lonicera, beaten a length and a half by Alfr Cheannaithe (the 6-4 fevourite) when a 33-1 shot first time up last season, finished unplaced on both subsequent starts but struck form at Taurijon, a week ago on her return. Taking command two flights out, Riobert Alfrets runner came home by three lengths from Indian Serenade with the hot favourite Infamous (seelong a half-trick) five lengths turther back in third. The mare looks bound to famous (seeling a hat-frick) tive lengths further back in time. The metre outside but and upper progress further and might well go in again, though hurding debutant URGENT SWIFT is preferred. The selection won a handloop on the Flat at Redicar in September of last year for Alan Jarvis's stable and he has been placed four times this season, including when short-headed by Mengaab under 9st 12b at Goodwood in August.

Selection; URGENT SWIFT

2.30 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 5 KIRBY MOORSIDE (14) (D J Minty) D Minty 6 10 12 4 MASTER MILL FIELD (7) (P Slede) R Hodges 5 10 12 _T Dasce

BETTING: 9-4 Royal Action, 7-2 Prince Kinsky, 9-2 Manter HERfold, 11-2 Scotlish Bazzbi, 13-2 Whis-pered Melody, 8-1 Province, 10-1 Mirrora, 12-1 Foleschive, 18-1 Galacia, 50-1 Kirby Moorside 996: See Division 1

ROYAL ACTION, winner of his first three Rist races at all-weather meetings early this year for John Banks's yard, shaped well in both hurdle outings last term. Third behind La Tetau at Palvenham on his debut, the Royal Academy getting went under only a length and a quarter to jackson Park at Doncaster In January. The four-year-old can open his account on his first, run for Oliver Sherwood, who gets them fit after a layoff. Scottish Bambi, beta length and a character with a depart of Edit hardworth behoods had not been presented. for known as a chaser, was a decent Flet performer for Richard Hannoris yard in his younger days and landed an amateurs' event at Polkestone in the spring of 1998 for present train-

HYPERION

Robert's Toy (nb) 3.50 Rustic Gent 4.20 Raga-

muff 4.50 Northern Starlight 5.20 Diamond Half

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in a few places).

• Fight-hand course. Chase course has sharper bends than hurdles course.

• Recordures is north-west of town off A49. Ludow railway standards. Standards and 2 miles away. ADMISSION:

tion (Heritord - Strawsbury Ins) is 2 miles away. ADMISSION: Club £14 (accompanied under-16s free); Tattersalis £9; Course £5.

Cub 514 (accompanied under-tips mee); lattersass 137; Course 131.

CAR PARIX: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe - 19 winners from 76 runners gives a success ratio of 250%. D Micholaton 17-63 (27%), K Balley 16-66 (242%), P Hobbs 12-69 (203%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguire - 20 wins, 96 rides (203%), M A Fizzgerald 11-64 (172%), S Wymne 9-77 (117%), N Williamson 8-45 (178%).

FAVOURITES: 165 wins, 410 races (40.2%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.20 HALFORD JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE

HYPERION

2.10 Absalom's Lad 2.40 Montano 3.10 Hadith

3.40 Misty Rain 4.10 Sword Arm 4.40 Ciro's Pearl

GOING: Good to Firm.

STALLS: 139 wins in 343 races (40.5%).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best for 51 & 61.

Left-hand, sharp, downland course.

Course is east of town Follow sopposits from town centre. Brighton station for (test service from London, Victoria). ADMISSION: Club 22 (accompanied under 16s free); Tettersalls 28 (accompanied under 16s free); Silver Firing 24 (inc 24 per car). CAR PARK; Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hamnon - 36 winners from 216 run-rar gives a success ratio of 167%, G I, Moore 25-90 (13.2%), R Alcehurst 22-98 (22.2%), S Dow 21-153 (13.7%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: T Quinn - 53 wins from 220 rides gives a success ratio of 241%, Dane O'Narii 22-121 (19.2%), J Reid 19-136 (13.2%), J Quinn 14-108 (13%).

2.10 PYECOMBE MEDIAN AUCTION MAID-EN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added

MAI OM'S LAD P Harris 90.

● FAVOURITES: 165 wns in 410 races (40.2%). BLINKERED FIRST TEME: On So Emby (240); Salecting Away & Soda Pop (eli visored, 340).

2YO 7f

(CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m

2 BERYLLINK (21) (3F) M Pps 10 2 ______ C. Meade LAYANNAY R Hodges 10 2 ______ J Herris (7) 2 KNGDOM SAPERIOR (82) W Cay 10 2 _____ A Johanno 22 PRARIE MINISTREL (USA) (12) R Dictor 10 2 ____ Gary Lyons POINTE FINE (FR) (F26) J Hills 10 7 ____ N Williagmon

2.20 Prairie Minstrel 2.50 Miners Rest 3.20

LUDLOW

BRIGHTON

er, Paul Webber. This is a confidence restorer for the nine-year-old, whose last run was when odds-on and last of three behind No Light in a handicap chase at Huntingdon two weeks ago. Master Millited thes a fair Pate record, scoring six times over the years – four at all-weather tracks – and will be the better for his fourth behind Lonicera at liauntion on his harding debut. Prince Kinaky, who scored at Epsom in April, Ropped when lavouring on his first appearance over timber in Rossall Island's race at Towcester but will also know more about the game this time.

Selection: ROYAL ACTION FORM GUIDE

Noel Chence reports Mr Muttigen as being "fit enough to do himself justoce" despite the being the nine-year-old's first appearance since he gained Gold Cup glory seven months ago, jumping boldly and staying on strongly to defeat Barton Bank nine lengths. However, Mr Mutigen might find GALES CAVALIER just too good getting 13th. David Gandolfos nunes, another fine jumper, hes failed to score since whoting up the season before last with Exister and Ascot victories but he was numer-up four times last term, including when beaten times lengths by Coulton in this corresponding race, while he was a four-length second to Males A Stand in the Lanzarots Hurdle at Kempton. Terao, who won the Midmay of Fiete Chese at the Cheltenham Feativel, followed up at Newbury and, company to the fieth of the chem. He is a 20th wrong in the weights, however. Glemot will be straighter for his opening third to McGragor The Third at Strationd but is 177b out of the henticap.

Selection: GALES CAVALIER

3.00 UP AND COMING STAYERS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

S98. Hanakham 7 ti 0 R Durwoody 9-4 (R Hodges) 4 ran FORM GUIDE Paul Nicholis relies solely on GALATASORI JAME in preference to a couple of other en-Paul Nichols reles solely on GALATASORI JANE in preterence to a couple of other en-tries and this progressive mare looks poised to complete a four-timer. Successful in an lish point-to-point in 1986, the seven-year-old scored times times over timber last term, two at this track, and site was in with every chance only to topple over at the last when making her lending bow at Newton Abbot in August. Galatason Jane was let down by her jumping when odds on and beaten two lengths by Hacketts Cross on a return to Newton Abbot 12 days afterwards but she has done nothing wrong in her times outlings since, whinting the last two with the utmost ease. Wiseley Wonder, such a good long-dis-tance novice hurder the season before last but so disappointing over lances, reverted to the smaller obstacles for his last two races of 1996-97 after a third to Jet Rules over tences at Towcaster. Still, he can improve.

Selection: GALATASORI

3.30 ORCHARD FM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f

FORM QUIDE OPTIMISM REIGNS, successful in a Fairyhouse bumper last November, went off a short-

landed two years earlier but had to settle for second behind Lord Khalice, be landed two years seried out had to sende for section bearer out interest, obsernment than three lengths. Note Chance's charge will have derived considerable benefit from that hurding bow - it was his first appearance since December - and he is fanced to go one better. St Medium Letaure won a weak heat essing up over course and distance 18 days ago after a ten-length second to Arctic Thumph at Market Resen. There is better still to come from Nigel Hewler's runner and he rates the main danger. Lostomor, runner-up in his last two starts, will like this step-up in trip. Selection: OPTIMSM REGINS

4.00 DESERT ORCHID SOUTH WESTERN PATTERN CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 2m 5f

- 5 deciared -3E777NG: 11-10 Mr Mulligan, 7-4 Gales Circulies, 7-2 Terab, 15-2 Glemot, 250-1 Gabisb. 1996: Coulton 9 11 10 J Osborne 2-1 (O Sherwood) 4 ran

3.20 FARMERS STORES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,700 added 2m

(CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 7f

06001 PRAETORIAN GOLD (25) R Hannon 9 7 ___ Dans O'Nell 1

- 18 declared -

0 BOREAS HELL (22) J Amold 9 0 Martin Durer 8

50 BALLASELIA (15) B Paling 89....

- 5 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Points Fins, 5-2 Prairie Minstral, 3-1 Beryllanz, 7-1 King-3.50 CASTLE SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS G) £3,500 added 2m

2.50 COURT OF HILL AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,800 NORTHERN OPTIMIST (59) (D) B Liewellyn 9 11 6. 400F-C DAYS OF THUNDER (5) (D) Mrs 9 Odel 9 11 1 1 Cu 53PU4P HALHAM TARN (12) (D) H Memors 7 11 0 ... A Dowley 4544-6 LAKE OF LOUGHREA (24) (CD) (BF) K Balley 7 12 7. 3GP-4 INCH EMPEROR (25) (CD) A Carrol 7 (2 3 Mr A Whitely (5) B 3GP-4 INCH EMPEROR (25) (CD) A Carrol 7 (2 3 Mr A Whitel (7) 3344 FENWICK (6) (CD) R Hodges 10 12 0 ___ Mr J Crowley (7) 05222 MOZEMO (6) (D) (EF) M Pipe 10 11 7 ___ Mr G Effect (5) 23F232 KINLOGH GALE (27) Mrs M Evens 9 11 5 ___ 29993- RYTON RUN (173) (D) Mis S Odel 12 11 3 S-1UF3 MINUSIS REST (17) (D) P Hobbs 9 ft 9... Mr R Widger (7)
M651- JHAL FREZI (187) (D) A Berrow 9 ft 1 ... Mr O McPhall (7)
64344 TELLAPORICY (5) R Smyson 8 ft 10... Mr A Middleton (7)

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicep weight: Anotherone To Note 9st 12fb, htsh Domingon 9ct 6th. BETTING: 3-1 Ruppies, Northern Optimist, 9-2 Smiling Chief, 6-1 Halihent Tarn, Rustic Gest, 10-1 Days Of Thunder, Iriah Dominion, 12-1 others 4.20 HAZLIN DOORS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m SETTING: 2-1 Mozemer, 6-1 Lake Of Loughree, Kinlogh Gale, 7-1 Inch Emperor, Femalick, Jihal Frazi, 8-1 Miloens Rest, 10-1 others

434-FP KHALIKHOUM (B) Sr J Berlow Bt 4 11 4 ___ J R Keven

BETTING: 8-15 Northern Starlight, 11-4 Sparkling Spring, 8-1 Gissme, 20-1 Crocksamohill, 25-1 Marvulane, 68-1 Montager. O- THE KERRY LEDGERD (166) N Chance 4 til 381 Scales (7)
COME ON MALIBHA K Brighwater 5 til 13 R Massoy (3)

—4 declared —
BETTING: 1-3 Dismond Hell, 11-2 The Kerry Ledgend, 8-1 Come On Mannette 13-1 Anthony Change.

3 1PP3- SHSRWOOD BOY (432) (CD) K Baley 8 TI 2 N Williamson 4 30U-42 SOURCES OCCASION (15)(D) R Curia 4 TO 6 R Johnson B - 4 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Robert's Toy, 5-2 Squire's Occasion, 3-1 Sherwood Boy, 7-2 Parcy Brailmein. 22 HADITH (26) D Morley 9 0 R Hille 4
4 HIGH TERSION (JUSA) (29) P Cole 9 0 Toldon 9 C Toldon 9 STAGE WIRSPER Lord Hurbrydon 9 O Dens Chief 7
00 WINTERTRIFE (44) G Levis 9 0 Paul Eddary 3Paul Eddery 3A Clark 9 BETTHIC: 5-2 Silversmith, 3-1 Jan Chillin, 4-1 Signatory, 8-1 Arcane Star, 12-1 Browning, Deacing Grey, 18-1 Bellantile, 20-1 others BETTING: 45 Hadith, 3-1 High Tension, 7-1 Stage Whisper, 8-1 Angstrom 3.40 RACE HILL SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 2f

ALDRINGTON NURSERY HANDICAP LAUREN'S LAU Jon; 5.7

SASSY (37) A. Janvis 6 10

SASSY (37) A. Janvis 6 10

SALANTIA, (17) B Paling 8 9

LITTLE TUNISLER (26) S Woodman 8 7

LITTLE TUNISLER (26) S Woodman 8 7

Candy Morris 3

ADMINISTRATINE (24) S DOW 6 4

LIFE Egan 15

ADMINISTRATINE (24) S DOW 6 2

LIFE Egan 15

ADMINISTRATINE (24) S DOW 6 2

LIFE Egan 15 RETTUNG: 7-2 Leuren's Led. 5-1 Praetorian Gold, 7-1 Alles bioffett, 8-1 Montano, 10-1 Radar, Sessy, 14-1 On So Easy, Little Tumbler, 16-1 offi-3.10 GARDEN AWARD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 24,550 added 2YO 1m

000030 (GROV PROTESE (18) G L Moore 5 7 13 M Henry (3) 9 V - 20 deciared -BETTING: 5-7 Minty Rain, 7-1 Multi Franchise, 8-1 Lochiste, 10-1 Pessage Creeping, Socia Pop, Cabcharge Blue, 11-1 Without Friends, 12-1 others

4.10 HANNINGTONS OF BRIGHTON LIMIT-ED STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 10300 SWORD AFM (25) (D) R Cherkon 3 9 3 T Syreke 2 V 80000 MUHANNES (51) G I Moore 4 9 0 Candy Morris 9 600-85 SECRET SPRING (19)(D) P Hodger 5 9 0 D Sweamey (3) 5 265002 SHAMANEC (22) S Woods 5 9 0 Sweamey (3) 5 265002 SHAMANEC (22) S Woods 5 9 0 Morris 9 0 M Hills 4 7 0-50 GALBES (FR) 677 R Harmon 3 8 11 Dane O'Neit 7 22400 UNDERCOVER AGENT 158 1 Dane O'Neit 7 8 020033 VANESHING TRECK (ISSA) (74) H Ced 3 8 8 ... K Fallon 1 B SETTING: 3-1 Secret Spring, 9-2 Underzower Agent, 5-1 Vanishing Titck, 6-1 Toujours Riviers, Dandal, 7-1 Shassanic, 8-1 Sword Arm, 20-1 Others 4.40 FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S PARK AP-PRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 3f 196yds

410615 OPERA BUFF (19) (CD) (SF) Gay Kellenay 8.9 il ... 40222 SAPPHEE SON (69) (C) P Caria 583 __S Careon (3) 1 003012 BEWITCHING LADY (26) (BF) D Artschnol 3 7 10 _____ Ministum weight Be True 7st 2th. 39 True 781 220. BETTING: 11-4 Rendom Kindness, Newport Knight, 6-1 Be True, 7-1 Sep-phire Son, 8-1 Opera Bull, Ciro's Pearl, 10-1 Bewilphing Lady, 12-1 oth-

Liverpool fans unite in disillusionment

Liverpool's abject performance in Strasbourg fuelled growing concerns that something is seriously wrong with the red machine.

Guy Hodgson spent yesterday on Merseyside talking to fans losing patience with the club's manager, Roy Evans.

The face was florrid and the eyes had the dewy look of a man holding back the tears of disappointment. "I'm disillusioned," he said unnecessarily because his body language spoke of graver emotions.

This was not Roy Evans, although this description was appropriate for the tortured features that had addressed the BBC's cameras at the end of Liverpool's Uefa Cup tie in Strasbourg. This was a supporter, who was numbing his sorrows in a pub 100 yards from Anfield.

"Just like that," he had said, as he entered. "Strasbourg went through our defence like a gate," and he opened and shut the door twice to illustrate the point. "Roy Evans says he's driven round the bend by the players. He should try wasting his wages on them."

At the memorial to the victims of Hillsborough, the sentiments were similar. "The defence was crap," a middleaged man said, "and so much for Paul Ince. He was supposed to bring steel to the team, but he's gone missing in Europe against Celtic and now Strasbourg. The Guv'nor? Don't make me laugh."

an unhappy 3-0 defeat in France, it was that the anger of his supporters appeared to be heading in the direction of the players. At least for the moment, his managerial aptitude was not being questioned.

Which makes a change, but, almost certainly, a temporary one. It has become a cliché on Liverpool's local radio stations to hear someone say: "Evans has lost the players' respect," while his tactics and spending are frequent objects of scorn. The consensus on Merseyside is Evans will either step down or be sacked unless the team win something (and they do not

Roy Evans' record as

Appointed: January 1994

1994-95 League: 4th League Cup: Winners (beat Bolton 2-1); A Cup: 6th round (lost 2-1 to Tottenham) 1995-96 League: 3rd League Cup: 4th round (lost 1-0 to Newcasde); FA Cup: Final (lost 1-0 to Manchester United) 1996-97 League: 4th League Cup: 5th Round (lost 2-1 to Middlesbrough) FA Cup: 4th Round (lost 4-2 to Chelsea) European Cup-Winners' Cup: Semi-final (lost 3-2 on aggregate to Paris St-Germain)

mean the Coca-Cola Cup) this season. As they had said in the pub, almost as a one: "Shergar's got more chance in the Derby."

Ninth in the Premiership and, barring a near miracle at Antield in a fortnight, out of the Uefa Cup, the sense of disillusionment swirling round the city is profound. The more so because the £11m Evans spent in the summer on Ince, Oyvind

for Evans as he contemplated and Danny Murphy was expected to transform a nearly team into the real thing.

In theory, a side that had lacked resolution should have bought a backbone with those purchases, but so far the limpness that marked the performances of the previous two seasons has lived on.

Even Evans seems to have reached a limit. In the past he has protected his charges, pleading for patience, but on Wednesday his frustration boiled over. "It's the same old story," he groaned, "and it's driving me round the bend. I'm the man in charge, I make the decisions, but I can't go out there to kick the ball for them.

You can't defend like that in Europe – or in any competition. I know they're better than that, and they do, too. The heart is there but we have got to look at ourselves and try to find out where we have gone wrong as a team. We have to decide what is our best side."

Ah, the best side. Supporters deride the players for their attitude but despair at the lack of tactical direction. Evans has oscillated between four and five in the defence so far this season and neither has looked that convincing.

Against Everton he tried a flat back four and lost 2-0 while the attempt to plug the gaps with an extra man in Strasbourg looked shambolic. The space behind the wing-backs, Jason McAteer and Stig Inge Bjornebye, was probed persistently by the French side who were aided by a lack of width

Tommy Smith, who won the European and two Uefa Cups with Liverpool in the Seventies and is now a commentator for If there was any consolation Leonhardsen, Karlheinz Riedle local radio, despaired at the lack



A pensive Roy Evans, driven to distraction by Liverpool's failings, suffers in Strasbourg

Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

of learning. "Look at Manchester United," he said. "They got used to playing in Europe among Liverpool's central three. and are getting better each year, but not Liverpool. They're not good enough. You don't have so many bad results if you are a good side.

"They don't look too bad up

front or in midfield, but in defence they are absolutely awful. 4-4-2 is a better formation than this back five. The wing-backs get caught out of position, while the three centre-halves hold hands in the middle in-

stead of going out to cover." Chris Lawler, part of Liv-

Rund Gullit fears that he and his

Cheisea players could be forced

to spend an extra day in Trom-

so if today's Cup-Winners' Cup

tie is postponed until tomorrow

because of a saturated pitch at

The Chelsea squad had to

rain indoors following their ar-

rival last night in the Norwegian

town 200 miles north of the

Arctic Circle. And at the airport

the party had to pick their way

through more than a foot of

the Alfheim Stadium.

erpool's 1973 Uefa Cup winning team, echoed Smith's sentiments. "Liverpool's defence did not look right and they were under pressure from the first whistle," he said. "It seems to be a combination of things from a lack of confidence to a

lit's view, seemingly unplayable.

"They have covered it but it

doesn't look like a pitch to me,"

"Perhaps tomorrow it will be

different, and of course we

want to play - there has to be

a game and I know Tromso

have put in a lot of hard work.

But if the referee tries to

bounce the ball and it just sits

there and doesn't bounce, be-

cause it's so wet, then you sim-

Chelsea tie under threat

Evans has harked on about his side's inconsistency for two years and, to an extent, has conquered the problem. No longer sampling highs and lows, at present Liverpool are just average. And at a club which was once a byword for success, there

Bulgarian's transfer. solutely saturated and, in Gul- day to get the game played, al-

> Channel 5 and RTE are to broadcast live coverage of both legs of the Republic of Ireland's World Cup play-off against Belgium, in Dublin on

Little 'close' to a signing

clear last night as Aston Villa pondered over whether to step up their bid to prise the England midfielder away from Ibrox.

Gascoigne's agent, Mel draw with Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday.

ager, had previously indicated to the club would have to wait until the Uefa Cup date was out ed vesterday that there could be a signing very shortly. "I said be-

Paul Gascoigne's long-term might be a signing this week and confirming he wants him to future at Rangers was still un- that statement still stands. stav." There might be something. The chairman and I will sit down and talk about things over the next 24 hours."

Stein, confirmed that he has coigne back to the Premiership received a bid of £4.5m would d sour to Vil. la chairman, Doug Ellis, on El- la's European campaign appears lis's return from the the goalless to be on hold until Gascoigne's intentions are known.

Stein said: "I have spoken to Brian Little, the Villa man- Doug Ellis today and he has asked the same questions as that any deal to bring players everybody else. Everyone wants to know whether Paul wants to leave Rangers and there is no the way. However, he indicat- point in anybody doing anything about it until we do. I know Rangers want him to stay. Walfore the weekend that there ter Smith spoke to me this week

After Gascoigne's virtuoso display in last Saturday's 7-0 defeat of Dunfermline, Smith said then that only when his But any move to bring Gas- chairman, David Murray, had

Ellis and other Premiership chairmen must now decide whether to follow up their interest with an offer that could tempt Gascoigne to quit the Scottish champions. One of the clubs linked with the player, Crystal Palace, look to have ruled themselves out. Steve Coppell, the manager, confirmed that he made an enquiry four or five weeks ago, but feels that money would be a stumbling block.

Banks backing all-seat stadiums

Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, has confirmed that the Government has no plans to bring back terracing to football grounds. He said there would be no review of the Taylor Report recommendation of all-seaters stadiums in the top two divisions.

Speaking at a conference on the financing of clubs, he said: "The quality of facilities throughout these divisions rank with the best in the world and give us a head start in our bid for the 2006 World Cup."

He added: "The Government has no plans to review the Taylor Report's recommendations which identified all-seating as the factor which contributed most to spectator safety."

heating have done their job in keeping the snow off the surface, but the price has been that the top of the pitch is ab-

snow in order to move the 150 vards from the runway to the airport terminal. The covers and undersoil

ply can't play." The Uefa observer, Jürgen Werner of Germany, was due to fly in late this evening and an inspection is planned for this morning. If he rules that the pitch is unplayable then Chelsea could be forced to stay until Fri-

though the decision might be taken to start again - perhaps in Oslo - in two weeks' time, putting the second leg back until the next round of European matches in late November.

Tromso officials remain confident that the match would go ahead, with around 100 volunteers drafted in to clear the stands and terraces to allow the capacity 6,438 crowd to get in. Johnny Ingebrigtsen, the club spokesman, said; "We had

crossed our fingers that winter might not come until next week, but it arrived on Sunday. We're quite sure, though, there will be a game."

son and Iain Dowie up front."

pected to trigger Ian Moore's

return to Nottingham Forest af-

ter just one substitute appear-

trying to sign former Norwich

and Welsh international mid-

fielder Jeremy Goss for a nom-

inal fee from Hearts. Goss

played a trial for the First Di-

vision's basement club yester-

day but Huddersfield face

competition from Peterbor-

ough United for his signature.

sfield manager, hopes to make

two signings by the weekend.

He also spoke to the

Southampton striker, Mickey

but he is likely to choose West

Evans about a £700,000 move,

Peter Jackson, the Hudder-

Struggling Huddersfield are

ance on loan to West Ham.

The arrival of Abou is ex-

Martin Lipton --

New batch of French players fail drug tests

The French football federation new tests involved three playindicated yesterday that more players had recently failed done tests, but declined to reveal the names of the players or the substances involved.

The FFF were not expected to elaborate until testing of B er Cyrille Pouget had failed a samples had been completed. "Following multiple tests recently ordered by the FFF, it seems that the results of some tests have revealed banned substances in the urine of some players," the FFF said in a state-

ers, who allegedly took steroids. L'Equipe added that a judo fighter was also involved.

The French First Division team Le Havre announced earlier this month that their striktest for the banned steroid nandrolone.

Last season, the Lille midpended for nine months for

"launch an emergency plan to The French sports daily fight doping" if the tests were

fielder David Garcion was sus-

taking the same drug. The FFF said they would

Coca-Cola has refused to confirm whether they are about to end their sponsorship of the Scottish League Cup. The company has invested over £3m in the competition over the past four years, but their present deal expires after the 30 November final between Celtic

and Dundee United. Bell's has already withdrawn their £10m backing of the League programme following uncertainty over the proposed breakaway by the top 10 clubs.

> The loss of another major sponsor would be a further dency of Benfica. A vote is due in the 18-strong league.

blow to the Scottish game, with the smaller clubs looking for assurances over their share of future sponsorship deals.

A Coca-Cola spokesman would only say: "Discussions about a new contract are on-go-

The former Sweden coach, Tommy Svensson, was due to meet Benfica officials in Paris vesterday to discuss becoming the

Portuguese club's next manager. Svensson told Swedish paper, daily Expressen, he would meet João Vale e Azevedo, a candidate for the next presi-

to take place on 31 October for

All the candidates have set out their plans for the future, one of them favouring the former England manager Bobby Robson as coach, who is still employed by Barcelona. another putting Coventry's Gordon Strachan at the top of his list to fill that job.

"Benfica are a team in crisis and there had been a chaotic situation at the club," Svensson said. "They've already burned their chances of winning the league." Benfica are seventh

Redknapp closes on Frenchman

West Ham expect to complete the £400,000 signing of French striker Samassi Abou today after he flew back to London for a medical examination yesterday afternoon.

It will end a three-year trail for their manager, Harry Rcdknapp, who first spotted Abou, now 24, playing for his country in the Toulon Under-21 tour-

But the front runner from Cannes is likely to have to wait for his first-team debut a while longer than West Ham's next Premiership game at Leicester City on Monday night.

Redknapp said: "Everybody knows we are short of strikers and I've been trying to bring somebody in to thicken up the squad. We've kept our eyes on this lad since I saw him in Toulon a few years ago and our coach, Frank Burrows, went over to France to watch him play well against Auxerre the other week."

Cannes originally put a £1m plus price-tag on Abou, but have finally accepted West Ham's offer after weeks of negotiating which included the player taking part in training with the East London club.

"It is not a lot of money to pay by today's standards and we are hopeful he will be very good value," Redknapp said.

"But he is coming in as a squad player first of all because even with Paul Kitson out injured we've still got John Hart-

Matt Elliott, the Leicester centre-back who has been attracting rave reviews this season, will soon have to decide which country he wants to play for. The London-born 28-yearold has already been talked

Bromwich Albion.

about as an England possible for the World Cup finals next year and has been sounded out by Scotland because his grandmother was born north of the border.

Today he revealed a third option - Northern freland, the country once captained by his club manager, Martin O'Neill "My grandfather was born in Northern Ireland, so that's another possibility," he said.

Adams quits Swansea after 13 days

After being dumped by Fulham last month, Micky Adams yesterday walked out of the club that appeared to have revived his managerial career.

Adams announced he was quitting Swansea after a mere 13 days in charge following talks with the Welsh club's board. He was reported to be unhappy that funds for new signings had not been made available to halt the club's slide down the Third Division. Despite receiving more than £500,000 in the summer from transfers, Swansea have spent only £160,000 on three new players.

Adams, who took over from the sacked Jan Molby after he had made way at the Thamesside club for Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins, said: "I'm bitterly disappointed and the worry is that the fans who have supported me wholeheartedly will feel like I've let them down.

"The past month I have not enjoyed. It is unfortunate what has happened and it is with deep regret that I am

Nicky Summerbee may also be on the move soon, from Manchester City to Bolton, with Jamie Pollock travelling in the opposite direction.

Summerbee, however, is valued at £2m by City, who do not rate the former Middlesbrough player in the same price bracket and will want a cash adjustment of around £500,000. City have also asked about taking a second Bolton player in exchange.

Meanwhile, Bolton are giving a trial to the Bulgarian international Ilian Kiriakov. The midfielder plays for Aberdeen and is available at around £300,000 but will need a work permit, which may prevent the

Colin Todd can expect his South African defender Mark Fish to make his return as early as Sunday's match against Chelsea after a knee operation that was expected to keep him out until the New

29 October and Brussels on 15 November.

- Andrew Martin

Queue to play England

England will decide during the next 48 hours who will be their first opponents since qualifying for the World Cup finals - with Portugal and Colombia believed to be among front-runners for a Wembley date on November 15.

Glenn Hoddle's squad have now acquired such a high reputation, that other World Cup hopefuls are lining up to test their themselves against one of Europe's favourites before next summer's finals in France.

The Football Association confirmed yesterday that 32 teams want to face England on one of the six available friendly international dates between now and the end of next Mayand many of them want to come to Wembley in November.

Portugal were at one time thought to be England's first choice with Sweden and Norway possibly in the running. But Colombia, who are one of the South American qualifiers, could be a better bet.

Suggestions that Portugal who have missed the finals after finishing third in Group 9 - have withdrawn their request to meet England next month were denied by the FA yesterday.

After the November 15 date at Wembley - when eight other European sides, including the Republic of Ireland, will be battling it out in the play-offs -England are not scheduled to be in action again until February 11.

The Republic of Ireland and Wales are believed to be among the countries who want to play England then or on later dates which are available before the finals, namely March 25, April 22. May 23 and May 30.

An FA spokesman. Steve Double, said: "We will announce next month's opposition soon but for the friendly games next year, our opponents won't be decided until after the draw for the World Cup finals."

Sugar spices lecture with talk of dummies, prune juice and inflation

They were wincing at the FA yesterday as they digested Alan Sugar's view of the way the game is run.

The Tottenham chairman chose the Oxford Union as his platform and, as Nick Duxbury reports, he did not hold back.

Attendances are up. England and Scotland are in the World Cup finals, and Alan Shearer has been seen kicking a ball again. Some would say football has never had it so good, but not Alan Sugar, who painted a

dark picture of the country's na-- some wearing Spurs shirts gathered in the library of the Oxford Union on Tuesday.

Football, he warned, could be beading towards financial ruin and likened the Football Association to "dummies" who do not know how to govem the game.

"They [the FA] don't have a clue what is going on in the outside world. They're out to lunch. Commercialism has completely taken them over," he said. "Lancaster Gate is like Madame Tussaud's. We tell our people to keep moving so we can tell them apart from

The computer millionaire

had asked to address the tional sport for the 200 students Union as one of a series of lectures which bring together people who are ahead of the game in their chosen fields. But the talk was almost exclusively football and it was not just

the FA who felt Sugar's whip. Club chairmen were criticised for being greedy and he also attacked the "prune juice effect" of £150m from television pouring into the game at one end and straight out of the other. The money just ends up in the hands of agents, in inflated transfer fees and in higher players' salaries," he said.

"All Sky's money has done

is satisfy the immediate greed

of certain clubs. It gives them

the means today to fix the im-

win a game on the Saturday. "If we are not careful the game will fall away until we just have Manchester United playing Newcastle on TV every Saturday in different strips. "Inflation in football is out

mediate problem of how to

collapse somewhere and nohody will help them out." Sugar, who had made his first million by the age of 33. faced 90 minutes of questioning during which he agreed that it was not good business to buy Les Ferdinand for £6m and sell

Teddy Sheringham for £3.5m.

moves." he said. "Under nor-

mai circumstances we wouldn't

be as irrational as that and cer-

"Pressure brings irrational

of control. There will be a big



tainly Les Ferdinand would be the first to admit that he was quite astronomically priced." Sugar ruled out a return to Spurs for Paul Gascoigne. "It's

like going back to a place

where you had a good time on

holiday. It's never the same the

SNOOKER

Higgins is king of the high fives

John Higgins, the world No 2, humiliated Mark King yesterday to reach the Grand Prix quarter-finals at Bournemouth. The Scot sped to a 5-0

whitewash of the Essex lefthander in just 58 minutes, Higgins' Romford opponent scoring just 11 points in reply. Had the world No 20 not

potted a red and black in the nal frame, he would have accumulated the lowest points tally in a best-of-nine-frames match - to beat the mark of Graham Bradley who scored just eight points against Paul Smith in a qualifier for the 1992 Welsh Open.

However, the rout goes down as the most one-sided televised match in the sport's history as title favourite Higgins racked up 456 points with breaks of 67, 54, 55, 54 and 53.

"I didn't know about the record," Higgins commented afterwards. "But it's obviously great to get such a convincing victory. Mark didn't really settle at all and made it a lot easier for me than I expected. Beating Quinten Hann 5-4 in the last round after being 4-1 wn was the kick up the backside I needed."

Higgins, winner of the International Open in Bournemouth 18 months ago, now meets either John Parrott or John Read for a place in Saturday's semi-finals.

"At least I'll be able to play football on Sunday morning," joked King, the 1994 Grand Prix champion. "Every time I played safe, John seemed to knock in a long red. But he did give me a few chances and had I been on my game, it might have been 3-1 or even 2-2 at the interval. However, at 4-0 down you haven't really got much drance of coming back."

Chris Small reached the quarter-finals with a 5-2 win over Londoner Alfie Burden.

Small couldn't match the record-breaking achievement of Higgins but was delighted to end his wait for another quarter-final appearance. The 24year-old former bank clerk from Edinburgh dropped the opening two frames against Burden, a former Arsenal and Swindon schoolboy footballer.

Yet he overcame a hesitant start to win five frames without reply and comprehensively elimtate the world No 122.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Tuesday's late results Uefa Cop Second round, first lag: Athetic Bibar o Aston Villa C; Strashvorg 3 Liverpool 0;
Sportask Moscow (Fust) 2 Real Valladold (Sp)
C; Roor Volgograd (Rus) 0 Lazdo (f) 0; MrTK Badagest (Har) 1 Crossitz Jargeto (Cod.) 0; Sporting Braga (Por) 4 Dynamo Tbilla (Gac) 0; CubBruges (Se) 1 VIL Bootunn (Gar) 0; Agritus
(Den) 1 Tearde Enschade (Neth) 1; Steuss
Burhanst (Forn) 1 Basin (F) 0; Mac (F) 0 Kindstuhe SC (Gar) 2; Algat (Neth) 1 Udiness (d) 0;
Automo (Fr) 3 CH Creta (Ga) 1; Internationals
(Bu) 1, Lyon (Fr) 2; Schalles 04 (Gar) 1 Andersett
(Bat) 0; Atlatico Mantel (Spa) 5 FMCK Salonita
(Sr) 2; Nationaviria Football League First Division: Bury 1 CPP 1; Crown 0 Inswich 0; Norwich 0 Reading 1; Norther Forest 1 West Brom
0; Coford Utd 1 Middlesbrough 4; Port Valla 4
Hurdiersfield 1; Portmouth 1 Bradford 1;
Shelf Utd 5 Stociport 1; Sundariand 0 SwinLift Off 5 Stociport 1; Sundariand 1; Hardier 1; Westernot 2 Hardier 1; Sundariand 1; Lift Off 5 S It might get a little colder in Cleveland this week, but the baseball surely can't get much game three to take a 2-1 overall grove, confessed after his team hand the contest to the Marins. The innings in question was the as 49 Fahrenheit (9 Celsius), but minth. The Indians went into the wind chill made it feel three de-

TENNIS: EUROCARD OPEN

Ivanisevic loses his cool again

Britain continued to make headway in the Eurocard Open yesterday, with Tim Henman taking advantage of a painful afternoon for Goran Ivanisevic, in more ways than one. John Roberts watched the drama and histrionics in Stuttgart.

Tim Henman advanced to the third round of the \$2.3m (£1.5m) Eurocard Open yesterday here after his opponent, Goran Ivanisevic. decided it was time to retire to the treatment room before his tantrums brought disqualification.

To be fair, Ivanisevic was carrying an injury to his left arm and shoulder, ailments which also caused him to default last Saturday during the semi-finals of the ATP Tour event in Ostrava. But the crowd in Stuttgart's Schleyerhalle, having seen Ivanisevic hit several serves timed at more than 200 kph, were not impressed when he walked to the net after 39 minutes and handed Henman a match the Briton was winning, 6-3, 2-0. Spectators booed, whistled and shouted "Pfui!" which roughly translates as "Shame!".

Before making a painful exit, Ivanisevic had tried the pa-

tience of the Italian umpire, Romano Grillotti. The Croat's most potent shots were delivered in anger - one swing at the court breaking his racket, for which he received a warning. and one ball whacked into the rafters, for which he was penalised a point. Having also thrown his racket past the umpire's chair, Ivanisevic was in danger of being shown the

"I don't know why I played today," Ivanisevic said. "Maybe I thought [the injury] was not going to be so painful. Maybe I just wanted to play so badly, and then in the end I just made myself stupid and they were booing me and they didn't know why I stopped, I just made a mess for nothing. am going now to take an MRI [scan], and they are going to tell me more [about the injury]."

Having criticised the quality of Henman's performance the previous day, when he was fortunate to prevail in spite of a stream of service errors against the promising young German, Tommy Haas, it would be churlish not to credit him for keeping his head when lvanisevic was clearly losing his. "I suppose it is part of your

game plan when you play Goran," said Henman, who also won their previous match, in Sydney in January, "You talk about his serve and the way you have got to hold on to your



Goran Ivanisevic struggles to control his notoriously with Tim Henman in Stuttgart yesterday

Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Alisport

. Henman broke back im-

mediately and sensed Ivani-

sevic's frustration. "There is

said. "He was obviously hav-

ing trouble with his serves,

but a lot of his serves did go

serve. But one thing you can't the first game," Henman said. do is lose out in a mental battle. You don't want to be the one going crazy, because we all know he is capable of doing

The brief, bizarre contest began in Ivanisevic's favour. In an opening game which lasted eight minutes and contained six deuces, lvanisevic broke serve on his sixth break point. During the change-over, Henman was left to cogitate on the fact that seven of his 18 first serves had landed in the net and two double-faults had negated three aces.

"I think the whole tension in both of our minds came from terest. And, obviously, I Wimbledon 1985.

served a lot better (than ves-"It seemed like I played a pretterday]." ty good game, and he was re-Henman broke again, deci-

sively, for 4-2, and held to love ally on to his returns and broke after Ivanisevic double-faulted me. I sat down and was gone a to lose the opening game of the bit mentally. I had lost my second set. Henman will today serve, and against Ivanisevic play Sweden's Jonas Biorkthat is quite often the set gone. I was trying to contain myself. Fortunately I was able to do

The semi-retired Boris Becker was eliminated in the second round by Richard Krajicek, 7-6 (12-10), 6-4, a result that means old "Boom Boom" a role reversal right there." he will be supplanted by Nicolas Kiefer as the German No 1. Michael Stich is the only other German to have overtaken Becker in the 12 years since in. I was returning with in-

RUGBY UNION

England stung by injuries to Wasps half-backs Gomarsall and King

Andy Gomarsall and Alex the starting line-up against King, the first-choice half-back pairing at Wasps, must both pay highly inconvenient visits to the operating table today. The double injury setback will prove troublesome for country as well as club if King fails to re-

BASEBALL: WORLD SERIES

Florida Marlins managed

innings against Cleveland

lead in the World Series.

the extraordinary events

messier than when the Florida

Marlins beat the Indians 14-11 in

lead in the 1997 World Series.

game as you've ever seen," the

Cleveland manager, Mike Har-

had tied a Series record of three

errors in a single innings to

"This was about as ugly a

seven runs in the final

Indians to take a 2-1

Rupert Comwell looks at

of the second highest

scoring game in Series

Australia at Twickenham next

King, marginal favourite to take over England's outside-half duties from Mike Catt, has been hampered by a minor tear to a knee cartilage and was due to uncover in time to mount his ex- dergo exploratory surgery this

comfort of one of baseball's

strongest bull pens. They left it

at 14-7, a margin that even in

this Keystone Cops game was

beyond the ability of the Mar-

powerful Yankees of Babe

Ruth and Lou Gehrig fame,

had a team managed seven runs in the final innings of a

game. Cleveland replied with

what in other circumstances

would have been the rich boun-

ty of four runs of their own. But

even if they win the remaining

two games at Jacob's Field, they

will have to return to Miami if

they are to clinch the best-of-

seven series, and their first

world championship since 1948.

tator not boasting Eskimo an-

cestry, the southern journey

cannot come a moment too

soon. The game time tempera-

ture was charitably announced

And for any impartial spec-

Not since 1936, and the all-

Indians' mishaps give Marlins a field day

lins to throw away.

Wasps' Heineken Cup quarterfinal against either Brive or Pontypridd a fortnight on Sunday as his comeback match, but will be fortunate to meet that deadline. If he misses out, he can kiss goodbye to his chances of facing the Wallabies a week later.

Gomarsall's problems are pected challenge for a place in morning. He has identified more long-term. The scrum- ons, have a ready-made re-

game was expected to be cold-

fielders cannot account for all

the mishaps of the second-high-

est scoring game in Series his-

tory, topped only by the saga of

Toronto's 15-14 win over the

Phillies on a rainswept night in

Philadelphia in October 1993.

record-equalling four by Flori-

da's starter Al Leiter in the

fourth inning alone. The night's

heroes were the three Marlins'

hitters Gary Sheffield, who had

a homer and drove in five runs,

Darren Daulton with a two run

homer in the sixth, and Bobby

Bonilla, who redeemed two

earlier errors with some brilliant

base running and a decisive two-

given that cold conditions are

supposed to favour pitchers. But

in Cleveland on Monday, it

was a strange sort of night.

half, dropped by England following a number of patchy displays in last season's Five Nations' Championship, goes under the knife to have a disc removed from his back and will be sidelined for a minimum of three months.

Wasps, the English champi-

placement for Gomarsall in Martyn Wood, who has been outplaying his rival in recent weeks. The Londoners will probably ask Gareth Rees to move from full-back to stand-off to cover for King. The Canadian captain has played most of his - Chris Hewett

ATHLETICS

Scots' Commonwealth appeal

top half tied at 7-7, and with the grees below freezing. Last night's launched a desperate appeal for lic we can do it again. er still. The only consolation was help in raising the £250,000 still that snow was not in the forecast. Even the numbed fingers of year's Commonwealth Games.

The participation of the 200-strong team who are due to travel to Kuala Lumpur could be under threat unless the extra backing is found.

Funds are required to provide clothing and transport, as The pitchers issued a comwell as prepare competitors bined 17 walks, including a for the heat and humidity of

Only £150,000 of the £400,000 total needed has been raised, thanks mainly to the £100,000 from the team's main sponsor, the Bank of Scotland.

Now the appeal will target Scottish business, local authorities and professional firms, before the public are asked to lend a hand during a special fund-raising week in March.

run single in the ninth. Strange, John Lindsay, spokesman for the Scottish team, said: "We have raised the funds needed in the past and we are confident

Scottish athletes yesterday with the help of the Scottish pub-"Malaysia is obviously a long

needed to send them to next way and the cost of getting everyone there will be high, and we have also got some team sports for the first time, which adds to the cost. But we are setting out with a positive attitude."

Scotland wicketkeeper Alec Davies - cricket will be included for the first time in 1998 - and women's hockey player Val Neil were among those lending their weight to the launch in Edinburgh yesterday.

Chairman of the Appeal Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, added: "The Commonwealth Games are the single most important multi-sports event in which Scotland competes as a nation and one in which we have a proven track record of success.

"We are appealing to all the people of Scotland to play their part in raising or donating funds to ensure the team who step out to represent Scotland can do so with distinction."

Hard lessons on the 'killer' boats

Merit Cup sailed in to Cape Town yesterday to take second place on the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World race, But, as the boat's skipper reveals, some hard lessons will have to learned and quickly.



Ξ.

7.5

7:

. 2

DALTON

has tried to cut a groove as

reaching sails. They just

weren't strong enough out

we have been faxing back

everything that needs to be

done. All the improvements

After a day off we will

start an intensive programme

improvement, including

restart on 8 November we in-

tend to a lot stronger and a

ing about the opposition. The

performance by Paul Cayard

in EF Language was awesome

and he is clearly on the pace.

I think that Lawrie Smith in

Silk Cut is still the danger

man. He showed that when

recording the biggest 24-hour

run of the leg when conditions

that could win this and to see

There are still five boats

became heavy.

We have also been think-

lot better.

We have blown all the

it works back and forth.

We were pretty happy with our finishing position, especially considering the set-up when they are racing are of the boat was not ideal for enormous. We have broken the conditions in which we lots of the halyards which hoist the sails up the mast. There is damage to the top of the mast where the wire

This is my fifth, first leg of a Whitbread race and you always think every one is harder. But, even though the one to Cape Town in 1985 was hard as there was a lot of upwind work, this was the toughest. Back then I also didn't have the responsibility of being in charge.

had to race.

These boats are killers to to speed and reliability are sail, so we have been thinkin train. ing about the whole mix of equipment and procedures as of repair, maintenance and a means of maintaining higher speeds for longer. work on the water. By the

The learning curve over the first 7,350 miles has been steep and relentless. We have found out just how physically draining these boats are. It was made worse because of a constant need to repair things as they broke. It meant that the off-watch had to be brought on deck to retrieve a situation like a spinnaker falling in the water. They then lost more precious rest time having to do the repairs.

Even though we had enough food at the end to make four or five meals a day, we will need to take bigger rations to boost energy levels for the next leg and we are looking at increasing the crew from 11 to 12.

We had always intended to be 12 on the shorter legs because we expect there to be less chances for sleep. A key question for the run to Fremantle will be whether the new man and his skills fit in.

As far as hardware is concerned, one of the things we will be looking at are fittings vhich, even though they are strain of 10,000 kilos, were still breaking regularly. We

once nearly lost the mast. The loads on these boats

one boat break away on this first leg is not new. It necessarily always happens on this first north-south leg, but things will look a little different going east-west and in the southern ocean. The key to winning this

nine-leg marathon is preparation and learning from mistakes. You can come out on top overall even if you never win a leg outright. You have to put together a string of consistently high places.

There is a long way to go supposed to have a breaking in this race, but I wouldn't want to be too far behind as the way the points system is weighted it's pretty ugly for those at the back.

Dalton happy with second

Grant Dalton was in business-like form in the early hours of yesterday morning as he brought Merit Cup into Cape Town for second place in the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Dalton was 20 hours behind Paul Cayard in EF Language, and an hour and a half ahead of the third-placed Knut Frostad in Norway's Innovation Kvaerner, And he was happy with that.

"The crew," he said, were going really well, but they are tired. Coming second may not always sound great, but we thought it was good. We thought we had done a mighty job."

Second place gives Dalton 110 points on the event's complex scoring system. Cayard has 125 and Frostad 97.

Expected in fourth place today is Britain's Lawrie

Dickson's Toshiba, in sixth, is again hunted down by Ross Field's America's Challenge, the distance between them fluctuating between three and 10 miles with less than 500 miles to go. There was more woe for

Smith in Silk Cut as Chris

last-placed Brunel Sunergy, having to stop off in Brazil to replace a rudder broken in a collision with a whale. The Dutch boat reported that its mast has been damaged and will have to be repaired by splicing in a new top 50 feet in Cape Town.

III. C.ape Town.
WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD
RACE (first lag, 7,350 miles,
Southweapton to Cape Town): 1 ET
Language (Swe) P Cayard 29 days 16hr
Stimin 28esc; 2 Merit Cup (Monaco) G
Defion 30: 12:20:11; 3 Innovation Kusemer (Nor) K Frostad 30: 43:56. 38li to finlaft: 4 Sik Cut (GS) L Smith 149 miles
to go; 5 Chesale Recing (US) M Fischer 379; 6 Testibe (US) C Dickson 478;
7 America's Chullenge (US) R Rield 482;
8 Swedish Meach (Swe) G Krartz 591;
9 EF Education (Swe) C Guillou 809; 10
Brunet Sunagy (Neth) H Bouschole 534.

Stuart Alexander

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics MEN'S Skim RACE (Belgrade) Leading po-sitions: 1 H Remissis (SA) Thrin 19ac; 2 L Jesus (Po.) 1729; 3 Penget (Ken) 1729; 4 J Pessas (Cz Rep) 1723; 5 J Nuind (Ken) 1729; 6 C Nyberg (Swe) 1737; 7 A Aristi (N 1737; 8 S Drigyn (Rus) 1742; 9 J Bersas (Mg) 1743.

Badminton Badistritton
Bidd And VCHBA (Resolds Laisure Contra, Easter) Third match of 5: J Davies and N Back lost to Liu Zhong and Harry Nanyan 4:17 13: 18; P Knowies is J Xingpeng 15:7 15: 20; C Hurtl and S Archer bi Chang Au and Xia Xianna 15:5 15:42 J Mann feu to Hongyan 4:11 4:11; J Robertson and L Cole lost to Zhu Rang Hurng Manyan 15:11:15:18 2-15; England 2 China 3.

WORLD SERIES (Cleveland): Florida 14 Cleveland 11 (Florida land best-of-seven se-ries 2-1).

Basketball The Budweiser League team Sheffield Sharks have signed the 6ft 3in guard Terreli Myers to boost their back court following Chris Finch's promo-tion from player to coach.

WORLD AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Bu-depost) Selected: 48tg quester lineis; R Dyd (Swk) bt 1 Naps (68) 9-4 67kg quester-fineis; O Seitov (Rus) bt N Gough (H) 6-2.

ed for testicular cancer.

Golf
The European tour yesterday announced the richast tournament on maintand Europe. Prize money at the 1998 Tournament Players Champioship of Europe is going up from 2750,000 to Ettm, the largest amount outside British, and by 2001 it will reach at least £1.4m. Deutsche Bank and the leading German software manufacturer SAP are sponsoring the event. The tournament will be played at Gut Kaden in Hamburg on 29 May 1 June. It will return there in 2000 and in alternate years will be staged at St Leon-Rot just south of Haidelberg. in alternate years will be staged at St Leon-Rot just south of Heidelberg. Leon-Rot just south of Haidebarg.
Bernard Hunt, the former Ryder Cup
player, made it third time lucky when
he and his amateur partner, John
Welch, won the Ping Super 60s title
with a 15-under-par 131 at Selsdon
Park yesterday. Hunt, twice a Ryder
Cup captain in the 70s, and Welch
representing the Foothis club, had linished runners-up in the previous two
years. Ice hockey
NHL: Phiscisphia 7 Tempa Bay 1; Dalis 1
*Vancouver 5; Edmonton 1 Boston 2;
Phoenix 3 Anaheim 4; Los Angeles 3 NY Islanders 2.

a final discission arrer continuous per-potiations over rent, which will be less than last year's £7,000 per game for Super League matches. Rochdale have also made their Spotland ground

avenue.m.
Selford Reds have signed fan Marsh,
the teenage centre from Widnes
Tigers Amateur Club, on a three-year
contract.

E Quinnan, P Ryan, P Comerford, B Mc-Sweeney, C O'Sulfvan, G Kinnene, D Mc-Cartney, A Cuffe (all Dublin Blues), G Docherty, C Neirus, M Freemen (Bungor Visinge), T Mannelnge (North Side Hornets), J Gallagher (Buncaran), P Kanneby (Belliast Wildcats), M Browne, S Tighe (Tellagha Tigess).

Ireland lock Jeramy Davidson could still face New Zeeland in Dublin on No-vember 15, even if he is unable to play because of his knee injury for the next two weekends. The manager, Pat Whelan, underlined the value he places on the Lions forward yester-

places on the Lions forward yesteray when he said: "it's not a question of picking him regardless, but even if
he is ruled out over the next two Saiurdays, but is then passed fit, he would
certainly get into the side."
SWALEC CUP Third-round draw: Dinas
Pouys v Aberason Quins: Pwilhel v Vardre;
Seven Sistars v Tycrose: Bynes v Penygrag;
Sengharydd v Felinbet; Abercambol v Newtown; Carmarthen Quins v Cwmgwrach;
Bela v Morriston; Gamorgan Wrads v
Cwmllyrfial; Nantymoel v Crosspoollog; O
Brydiane v Blains: Plyorstown v Cropstow;
Bedwas v Pill Humers; Abercam v Bleengarw; Treherbert v Abercam v Bernogram;
Terherbert v Abercam; Narberth
v Brytmawr; Timsaran v Newcasie Eminy;
Tenby Utd v Whitland; Glynneuth v
Llaminisan; Beddau v Glais; Klotwely v Percoed; Ynysytwi v Llandudno; Ystradgynleis

v Resolven; Lienishen v Cwrngors; Neeth Ain v Trobenos; Carmerhen Ath v Llarinsran; Mountain Ash v Crundir; Porthawi v Strot-grave; Garndiffaith v Oakdale; Abercymon v Cowbridge; Pyla v Rhymey; Suth Vella v Abergeenny; Ronyretel v Penerth; Te-degar v Vistrad Rhondda; Citiynydd v Gil-fach Godr; Rhigos v Kernig Hit; Rondu v St Peters. Ties to be played Saturday, 22 No-wember.

Pete Goss and his partner, Raphael Dinelli, continue to hold fourth place in the 50ft BMW Performance, with in the 50ft BMW Performance, with 2,500 miles to go to the finish of the Jacques Vabre two-handad transatiantic race. There are three 60-footers shead of him, one behind out of the 10 which started from Le Havre. The other British competitors in the monohulis, Niah Vaughan and Amet Taylor have retired. The multinuis are led by Laurent and Yvan Bourgnon in Primagez.

Robert Scheldt is set to win his third successive. World Laser Chample.

successive World Laser Champi-onship at Algorrabo, Chile Britains Ben Alnsie is lying fourth behind two New Zealanders, Nik Burfoot and Hamish Pepper: Another Briton, Hugh Styles, is lying fifth.

After a delayed start to the Tenerife to Fort de France, Martinique, leg of the Mini Transat, singlehander Mark

Ellen MacArthux, the only woman in the race for 6.5m yechts, lying sixth. Two days into her attempt to break the Round Britain sailing record, Tra-cy Edwards and an all-woman crew of nine, was still ahead of schedule in

Turner has moved into the lead, with

GRAND PRIX (Bournemouth) Fourth round: J Higgins (Sco) bt M King (Eng) 5-0; C Small (Sco) bt A Burden (Eng) 5-2.

Tennis

MEXICAN OPEN (Mexico City): Singles, first round: F Clavet (Sp) bt A Gaudenzi (R) 486260; J-A Merin, (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 7-563; F Meligeni (B) bt N Filippin (Ling) 497661; J Burlo (Sp) bt T Nydein (Swe) 8-060; A Sa (B) bt D Sanguineni (R) 087662; N Lapentzi (Esu) bt O Ogoradov (Lzbet) 6-262; N Lapentzi (Esu) bt O Ogoradov (Lzbet) 6-262; A Hernandez (Mex) bt M Osorio (Mex) 6-16-1

ELIROPCARIO OPEN MEN'S TOURNA-MENT (Stattpert) Singles, second round: G Nuerten (Sf) bt H Arazi (Mor) 5-36-763; P Refer (Aus) bt T Engylat (Swe) w/o; P Korta (Cz Her) bt O Mocondri (US) 6-36-3; Y Kaleinikov (Pus) bt A Machredov (Urr) 6-02-6-4; M Ricc (Chia) bt K Ruzera (Swi) 8-76-4-54; P Karjicok (Chia) bt G Nerrisevic (Croa) 6-3 2 (nd).

BELL CHALLENGE WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Quebbe) First round D van
Roost (Bal) bt E Callens (Bal) 6-4 8-2; M
Grzybowska (Pol) or R Sampson (Carr) 1-6
6-1-6-3: Coloras (I) bt A Decharum-Balanat (Fr) 6-3 6-1; S Jeysseelan (Carr) bt A
Gavalton (Mad) 3-6.7-5-6-0; M A Versto (Ven)
bt M Tu (US) 6-3 6-2; P Hy-Boules (Carr)
bt A Fusai (France) 8-2 3-6 7-9; J Watterathe (US) bt R Hiraki (Japan) 6-3 4-6.7-5;
M De Swendi (SA) bt R Stubes (Aus) 6-4
6-6-3.
WCA TOUR PANKINGE C LITERAL

4-6 6-3. WTA TOUR RANKINGS: 1 M Hingis (Swit) 8530pts; 2 J Novotnar (Cz Rep) 3590; 3 M Seles (LIS) 3429; 4 L Davenport (US) 3307; 5 A Coetzer (US) 3335; 6 I Majoi (US) 2655; 7 I Spiriga (US) 2427; 8 M Pierce (US) 2400; 9 A Sanctusz Vicario (US) 2157; 10 C Martinez (US) 2355.

The International Weightlifting Federation said on Wednesday It will not verify the series of world records set by Chinese lifters at the National Games in Shanghal, citing a lack of Internationally recognized doping controls. The decision cast a shadow over the perpendicular performances in

Elr itch

neby United 2 Winsterland Kent League Christon: Day Durn 2 Chit Dunc I; Favor-7 Tone 2 Hythe Utd IC Followince Invital estable Tone 2: Antiridge Wals 0 Themes-1 Durn 1 Street is Circuit Langue Proprier mend Town 1. Serewis, Circe t Langue Pression Division: Eircoy 1 Bicklerd 5. Pontine Langue Pression: division: Sherbied, Weldmantey O Backburn 0. 54 Youth Cup Third Gundfying Round: 51 Alberts City O'Etth 5. Belveders 2. FA Unibro Tropby First round qualifying mapleys: Hincitey Lad 1 Sectored Grown 0. Leigh Fast 2 Frickley Athetic 1; Handon 2 Feeder Town 1; Abington Roun 2 Fiset Reen 0; Verymouth 1 Unbridge 1 (set).

American Lance American; the 1993 world champion, will make his come-back to riding in early January after a year out of the game being treat-

Rugby League
Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park
ground will be available next season
for use by a new Oldham Rugby
League Cub operating without News
Corporation funding in the Second Division. The business consortium backing the proposed new club will make
a final decision after concluding nenotiations over rent, which will be less

Castleford Tigers have signed the for-mer Oldhern Bears half-back Francis Maloney on a two-year contract. Castleford beat off competition from London Broncos to sign the 24-year-old ex-Leeds and Warrington player, who became a free agent last week Rugby Union

Sailing

Snooker

Weightlifting

controls. The oecasion cast a snacow over the remarkable performances in Shanghai, where Chinese women have set world records in weightlifting, swimming and track. No IWF-antidoping delegate has been present and no IWF-controlled anti-doping testing has been effected," the federation said in a statement.

of I

Crenshaw to lead US into next Ryder Cup but not against Seve.

Ben Crenshaw, four times a member of the US Ryder Cup team, was yesterday named as captain of the squad when it tries to reclaim the cup in 1999.

Meanwhile, the man who extended Europe's reign in Spain - Seve Ballesteros- underlined his intentions not to lead another defence.

Ben Crenshaw, twice winner of the Masters, will take over the Ryder Cup team that was beaten by Europe at Valderrama in Spain last month and has failed to bring home the trophy in five of its last seven attempts, it was announced

The choice of Crenshaw, 45, made sense in that he is a veteran player with Ryder Cup experience and is still active on the American PGA Tour and he will be in a good position to evaluate his players.

Meanwhile, the victorious skipper, Seve Ballesteros, who has been insisting since Valderrama that he will not be European captain again, has cut short all speculation that he might be persuaded to serve again, by confirming his decision in writing.

"I have written to the PGA resigning as the captain and I will not be changing my mind," said Ballesteros from Madrid yesterday, where he is com-

Supports president in Re-

view Supplement? (10) 6 See heads rolling (4) 10 Number hot in dwelling?

Turning extremely so

(3,4) 11 NE Scot wants river in

landscape (7)
12 Incas? They could be —

13 New poems presenting

14 Sportsman makes a high

15 A short companion (4,5)

17 Warm cover, that is, about the German get-

20 Bearded? Came close,

but face is shaved (5)

ting blue (9)

peting in the Oki Pro-Am, ups, as Ballesteros did when he which is being staged on the two La Moraleja Golf Club courses this week.

"I hope to be playing well enough to qualify for the team next time. If I don't I might not even watch the next match. I enjoyed the experience as captain this year but once is

While Ballesteros was confirming the end of his tenure as captain of the European team, the appointment of the new US captain was a surprise, in that it was generally assumed after the criticism of Tom Kite for the Valderrama loss that the PGA of America would select a sterner, tougher leader. Crenshaw, a shy historian known as "Gentle Ben", hardly fits that image.

Among those considered were Curtis Strange, who won the 1988 US Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, the venue of the next Ryder Cup, Larry Nelson, twice winner of the USPGA Championship, and Hale Irwin, who has won nine times on the American Senior PGA Tour

Kite was also considered to be in the frame but blamed the loss at Valderrama on lack of course knowledge and admitted he erred in not getting more than three of his team members to play the quirky layout until the week of the Ry-

Kite was also criticised for trying to play his team a balanced amount instead of going with the strongest match-

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

21 Settled back with very good measures (5) 23 Mellow Goya is gen or

25 Sound painter's fantastic

26 Raise English tax in gen-

27 Card missing Spade flush

Secure church collar (5)

suaded (9) Brits involved with a de-

canter, becoming dippy

Clarifies penalty among

Answered, being per-

work of art (7)

faked? (9)

there's a lack of certainty 28 Book has virtue and tal-

rested the off-form veteran Ian Woosnam.

Whether Crenshaw's team comes up against Ballesteros as a player next time depends very much on whether the Spaniard can pull his game round, starting this week in the unique European Tour proam at La Moraleja, in which amateurs play with the professionals for the first two of the

Last year, Ballesteros finished third with a 12-under-par aggregate of 276, three shots be-

The 40-year-old Spaniard has been trying out a new titanium driver in practice and is optimistic he might do even better than 12 months

His last European Tour victory, incidentally, was in Madrid at the 1995 Spanish Open but on a different course, at the Club de Campo.

His victory chances have been helped by the withdrawal of four of his Ryder Cup team, Darren Clarke, Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn and Per-Ulrik Johansson, in the last few days while yesterday Sam Torrance also withdrew after injuring his neck in the pro-am tourna-

Torrance had played 12 holes when he was forced to stop. As he said later: "It would have been crazy to have continued. Now I need to rest the injury because if I do it might be better in a couple of

Seaman streaked, it's said

with shocked surprise

walk (9) Thanks for the receipt

14 Exhibition — with one

viewer? (9) 16 Drop a name in a note

18 Old swan on song in

fresh surroundings (4-3) 19 Savings, say, hoarded by organised gents (4,3)

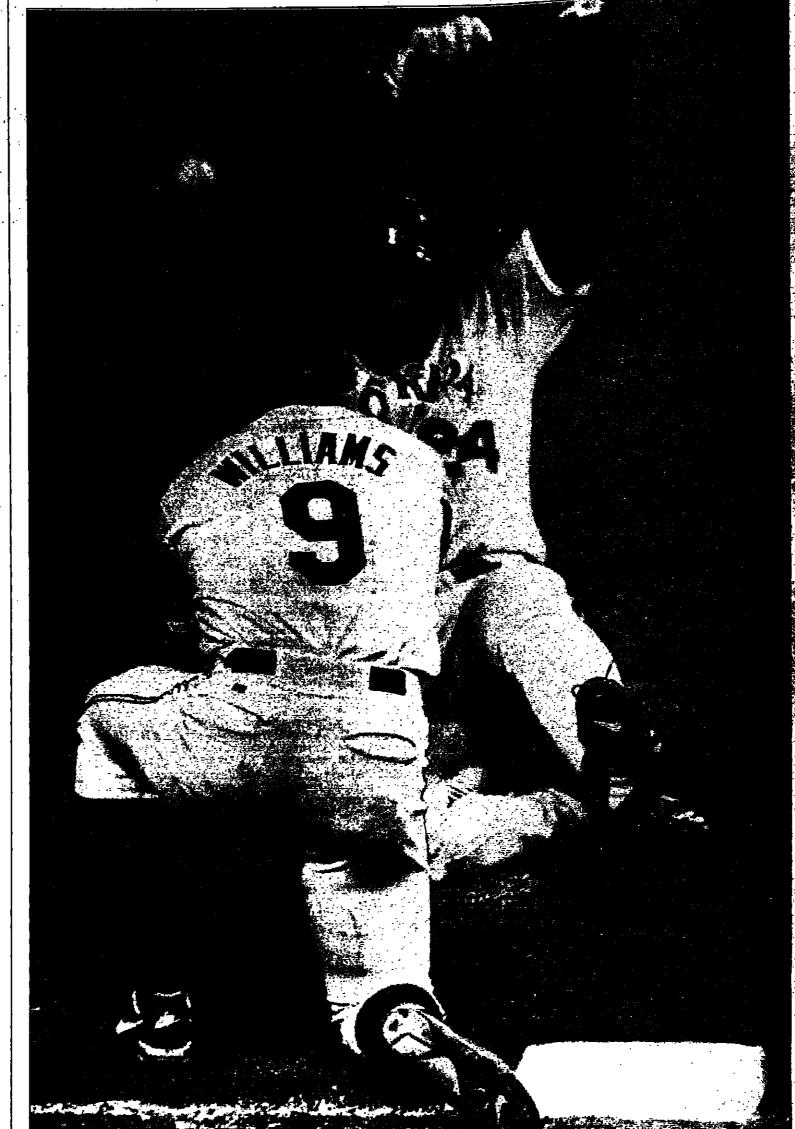
22 Grass hides bit of info in

24 Becomes gloomy - in a

scrape, we hear (5)

confusion (5)

7 Pool includes Union money (5) 8 Held dear steady during



Bobby Bonilla, of the Florida Marlins, safely slides in despite the attentions of Cleveland's Matt Williams in the ninth inning of the third game of baseball's World Series. The game, tied 7-7 at the top of the ninth, ended in a 14-11 win for the Marlins Report, page 3/

BOXING

Wright shows tentative signs of recovery

Carl Wright was yesterday described by doctors as "seriously ill, but improving slowly". The bulletin from the Walton Centre of Neurology and Neurosurgery did not actually confirm that the boxer had regained consciousness, but it is reported that he has come round from .

his nine-day coma. John Morris, the Board of Control secretary, said: "We are delighted that Carl Wright is making progress and we are leaving any announcement about his condition to the hosdone an excellent job for Carl and we will rely entirely on what they have to say about him. And, of course, we are hoping

he will make a full recovery." Colin Moorcroft, the trainer who rushed Wright to the Walton hospital after the box-

pital. They appear to have ber, has said that Wright responded with an emotional reaction after being shown a be optimistic he may make a full picture of his three-year-old son, Jordan.

"You can imagine the tension in the room when Carl opened his eyes for the first time in more than a week," said

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trained him on and off for the last four years. At least we can recovery. But we are not kidding ourselves. He is still on a

ventilator and extremely ill." Wright, 28, was outpointed in a fight for the vacant British lightwelterweight title against er was taken ill following his Moorcroft. "I've known Carl Antrim's Mark Winters at the fight in Sheffield on 11 Octo- since he was nine and have Sheffield Arena, and in the ear-

ing underwent surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. Billy Schwer, the talented but cut-prone fighter from Lu; ton, has sought all kinds of spe

One pressure

Se Britannia

ly hours of the following morn-

cialist opinion during the last four years to toughen up his features. Now the lightweight will be hoping that one of his latest injury-preventative measures will keep his face in good shape during Saturday's challenge for the European title against Spain's Oscar Garcia Cano in Zaragoza.

Tromso vs Chelsea live from 7:50 tonight on (5)